

VERNA SODANO-RICHARDS

3 Sandpiper Lane | Mystic, CT 06355 | (h) 860.536.1566 | (c) 860.389.8886 | verna@sodano.org

Experienced in providing leadership, project implementation, and web based professional development. Designed, supported, and implemented electronic curriculum on the web for educators; holds an Ed. D. in instructional technology and distance education; professional development model won a Connecticut Schools Principals award in 2000.

EXPERIENCE

- Connecticut RESC technology facilitator for Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Instituted computer classes, wrote standards and exemplars, trained teachers in integration techniques established, and lead technology committee
- Developed high school program integrating technology subjects with student created, multimedia, and animation
- Developed accountability structure for improving faculty technology competencies
- Developed and maintained online content
- Communicated with external and internal stakeholders concerning technology initiatives
- Facilitated community wide accountability committee for buy-in of technology
- Developed and lead teams of teachers to write tech. standards and benchmarks for K-12
- Developed and lead teams of teachers to write technology graduation requirement
- Implemented asynchronous methods including web based communications for both teachers and students mentioned in the (archived) 1999 US Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award,
- Collaborated and team taught district wide with faculty members
- Wrote exemplars for integrating lesson plans for each grade
- Researched, reviewed, tested and ordered technology software and supplies
- Supervised school technician
- Created depart. Budget
- Tracked CEUs for faculty and staff
- Wrote professional learning objectives for faculty professional learning program

COURSE WORK IN LEADERSHIP

- Technology Leadership - Brown
- Leadership and Management Theory – Nova
- Management Priorities/Human Resources – Nova
- Instructional Leadership in Distance Delivery – Nova
- Instructional Media Identification and Selection – Nova
- Linking Technology Instruction in System Organization – Nova

CONTINUING EDUCATION (MOST INFLUENTIAL EDUCATIONAL)

- Thinkfinity certified trainer
- Promethean Training courses
- Interactive whiteboards
- Podcasts, Vodcasts, and Screencasts
- Blackboard, WebCT and other LMS systems
- Scratch Conference - M.I.T.
- Alice workshop - Georgia Tech.

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LIAISON

- Career Technology Department Chair
- Manage student email functions
- Wiki Development
- Leadership Committee
- Professional Learning
- Smart web
- School WebMaster

SERVICE ON MAJOR COMMITTEES

- Technology Curriculum (DCSS)
- Accreditation Committee (DCSS)
- Technology Curriculum (KPS)
- School Improvement Committee (DCSS)
- Technology Plan (KPS, KCS)
- Library/Media Committee (DCSS)
- District technology committee (KPS) 1993 – 2001
- Chair of technology committee (KCS) 1993-98

DISSERTATION

-Improving Technology Proficiency among Elementary Teachers: Strategies for Professional Growth in a Community Wide Accountability Structure (2000)

STRENGTHS

- Leadership
- Integrating mathematics with technology
- Use of various operating systems
- Reflective practices in teaching and learning
- Mentoring
- Team teaching
- Project based learning

EDUCATION

2000 Ed.D. Instructional Technology and Distance Education, Nova Southeastern University

1995 M. S. Education, Eastern Connecticut State University

1972 B.A. Education, Rowan University

EXPERIENCE

2009 - LEARN, Old Lyme, Connecticut

2008 - Atlanta Public Schools (APS), Atlanta, Georgia

2008 - Columbia Public Schools (CPS), Columbia, Connecticut

2001 - 2007 DeKalb County School System (DCSS), Atlanta, Georgia DeKalb School of the Arts (DSA)

1988 - 2001 Killingly Public Schools Danielson, Connecticut (KPS)

HONORS

- 2005 Who's Who Among American Teachers

- 2000 Association of Connecticut Schools Exemplary Programs Award for professional development

- 1999 United States Blue Ribbon School Award - US DOE paragraph 6 (archived)

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GRANTS

- Samsung/Microsoft - Hope for Education – grantee (2006)
- Literacy, Technology and Multicultural Learning (1997)

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL

- Life List Hurricane Katrina worker – Internet searching for survivors (DCSS)
- Key Club Sponsor (DCSS)
- Newspaper Sponsor (DCSS)
- Computer Technician Club (DCSS, KCS)
- Web Spinners Club, (KCS)
- Logo Programming Club KCS)
- World Peace Online Seminar for Students (KCS)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Connecticut N8 Professional Educator (001), 2012
- Georgia T7 Clear Renewable: Early Childhood (P-5), 2011, Middle Grades – Social Sci., 2011
- Georgia T7 Non-renewable: Business Education, 2011; Technology Education, 2011