



Technology: Building Instructional Bridges  
Seventh Annual Educational Technology Leadership Conference  
December 12-14, 2001, Roanoke, Virginia



Dr. James R. Sandidge accepts his Educational Technology Leadership Award.

Dr. James R. Sandidge, Director of Research and Technology for Pulaski County Public Schools was honored by the Virginia Department of Education on Thursday, December 14, 2001. Dr. Sandidge received the 2001 Technology Leadership Award for Region VII. Virginia Board of Education member, Audrey B. Davidson and Assistant Superintendent for Technology, Lan Neugent, presented the award at the Seventh Annual Educational Technology Leadership Conference held in Roanoke, Virginia.

Dr. Sandidge has been employed by Pulaski County Public Schools for 34 years. Jim began his career as a 7th grade History and Language Arts teacher at Central Elementary School in Pulaski. He taught there for six years and was also, the school's Assistant Principal. In 1974, Dr. Sandidge moved to Pulaski Middle School, which was one of the first schools in the state to implement The School System™ (TSS) software. Jim became the district's Supervisor of Computer Technology in 1991 and during that year, he spearheaded the district-wide implementation of TSS.

At the district level, Dr. Sandidge has served as Director of Testing and Assessment, Manager of Information Systems, and in his most recent promotion, Director of Research and Technology. In 1999, he was the project leader as all of the schools in the district converted from TSS to the entire SASIxp product family. As the conversion to SASIxp continued in 2000, Jim oversaw the convergence of voice, data, and video as a new telecommunications system was installed in every classroom and office in the district.

Dr. Sandidge works, not only with members of the School Board and district personnel, but with people in the community and throughout the state to advance the use of technology. Jim is a member of the Pulaski County Economic Development Committee, the Pulaski County Telecommunications Committee, and Pulaski County Community Network (PCCN).

Dr. Sandidge has been a member of the Virginia TSS Users Group since 1990 and served as the organization's President in 1994. He also served on the McGraw-Hill Advisory Board from 1994-1997. When NCS Pearson acquired McGraw Hill in July of 1997, he was invited to become a member of the Creation Team that worked on the transition from CIMS-USA to UNITE. He is now serving as a member of the UNITE Board of Directors, as well as the local Southwest Virginia User Group Executive Committee.

As the state of Virginia was making the transition from TSS, Dr. Sandidge significantly influenced the purchase of the SASIxp family of products in 105 school districts. He provided leadership in getting the state department to pay part of the support cost during the first year of implementation and has helped form two new regional users' groups in the western part of the state.

Dr. Sandidge has done numerous presentations at local and state conferences, and has also presented at the NCS East and West conferences. He has taught TSS administration at the University of Virginia and at Virginia Tech and has served as a state trainer for the Virginia Department of Education.

Pulaski County Public Schools is proud to have someone of Dr. Sandidge's professional caliber on staff. His unique combination of knowledge and experience makes him one of Pulaski County's most valuable resources.



**Honored with the 2001 Educational Technology Leadership Award:**

- Region I: David Rankin, [Chesterfield County Public Schools](#)
- Region II: Kathleen Riley Pitchford, [Chesapeake Public Schools](#)
- Region III: Lora Price, [Gloucester County Public Schools](#)
- Region IV: Benjamin Swecker, [Prince William County Schools](#)
- Region V: Judy Lohr, [Waynesboro Public Schools](#)
- Region VI: George Washington, [Franklin County Public Schools](#)
- Region VII: Jim Sandidge, [Pulaski County Public Schools](#)
- Region VIII: Laura Williamson, [Prince Edward County Public Schools](#)