School board member to serve on A. Linwood Holton Governor's School Advisory Board:

Jeff Kegley

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

Virginia's First Virtual Governor's School

About the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

What is a Governor's School?

A Governor's School provides special opportunities for very able and motivated high school students who want to become part of an exciting and challenging program. Governor's Schools typically concentrate on specific curricular areas, such as science, mathematics, the arts, and/or technology.

What is the A. Linwood Holton Virtual Governor's School?

Students in Southwest Virginia are often confronted with challenges their peers in other parts of Virginia do not experience. The distance between schools, the rugged terrain, and the harsh winter weather serve as formidable impediments to providing a traditional, single-building Governor's School. Consequently, an innovative solution to these barriers had to be created. The result was Virginia's first "virtual governor's school," the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School, which is named for a former governor of Virginia who grew up in Southwest Virginia.

Using sophisticated distance learning and Internet based telecommunications technologies to deliver an advanced curriculum especially designed for gifted and talented students in their home schools, the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School fills a unique need in a very innovative way. Students from 42 high schools use "state of the art" LearnLinc software to attend classes, listen to lectures, participate in discussions, complete lab activities, etc. - from their school, home, or almost anywhere. Many of their tests are also completed and submitted online. Students enjoy a number of other advantages as well:

- Most of the content for the school's courses is online, as well as available in the textbooks provided, and is accessible to students at any time and place. Many educational tools and a large collection of supplementary material are available on the school's web site. The technology provides students with their own email accounts, and makes it easy for them to communicate with their teachers, collaborate with other students, etc. Teachers can post announcements to students, distribute class notes that may have been missed, provide a quiz which can be taken online and much more.
- Class sessions are recorded and archived and are available from the school's web site. This feature enhances the learning environment by providing students the opportunity to revisit material they need to review, catch up on classes they may have missed, etc.

Participating Counties

The Holton Governor's School serves students in 15 separate school districts and 42 high schools in Southwest Virginia including the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, in addition to the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton.

Course Offerings

Courses offered during the 2010-20111 academic year include Astronomy I & II, Engineering & Robotics I & II, Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Probability and Statistics I & II, Introduction to Engineering Methods & Computer Programming, Western Civilization I & II, World Civilization I & II, Appalachian History, Principles of Physics I & II, Advanced Multimedia Applications, and Methods of Research.

The courses are designed for juniors and seniors, but do not exclude academically advanced sophomores who have completed the necessary pre-requisites. Classes are offered in both 55 minute and 90 minute formats to best fit the schedules of the schools served. All courses have been approved for dual enrollment through the Virginia Community College System. Therefore students receive both high school and college credit when they complete their coursework.

Additional Information for Parents and Students: Guide Books and Newsletter

Guide books, detailing requirements, Governor's School policy, etc., are available for both parents and students. These documents, along with a Code of Conduct for all Governor's School students, are available on the *Support For Parents and Students* web page.

The Governor's School also publishes a newsletter in the spring and fall of each academic year. The current edition, Fall 2011 (Volume One, Number Ten).