VAST has brought together a group of experts from across the nation and teams of our best Virginia science and SPED teachers to lead this pre-conference. The morning will be led by Dr. Sami Kahn and four colleagues from various institutions, all of whom are nationally recognized researchers in science and special education (SPED). The afternoon will be led by teacher-teams of Virginia teachers.

In the morning, Dr. Kahn and her colleagues will lead participants through three mini-master classes focusing on the critical topics of inclusion and collaboration, drawing from their book, *Towards Inclusion of All Learners through Science Teacher Education*. The book serves as an indispensable resource for teachers and teacher educators wishing to understand how to educate students with exceptionalities in science. It begins with the voices and stories of the experts: current and former K-12 students with disabilities sharing their experiences in science education classrooms. The voices of students with disabilities are then connected to the work of leading experts in the area of science education for individuals with disabilities in an effort to address the goals of national reform documents by ensuring rigorous science experiences for all students. It is written in a highly accessible and practical manner, making it ideal for all educators including pre-service and in-service teachers, teacher educators, researchers, and curriculum developers.

After lunch each participant will attend one of 4 sessions led by a team of a collaborative and a science classroom teacher in the areas of Elementary (3-5), Middle (6-8), Biology and Earth Science. These sessions will include strategies to further raise student performance for high stakes testing.

Each participant will receive a copy of *Towards Inclusion of All Learners through Science Teacher Education*, breakfast, and lunch, as well as ideas and strategies for successful collaborative science teaching.

The registration fee for the pre-conference is $100. Please note that this does not include registration to the VAST PDI Nov. 15-17. The VAST PDI begins at 5 pm on Nov. 15 after the pre-conference. To register for the pre-conference please go to www.VAST.org. Use the PDI tab.

**Ticketed Donna Sterling Institute**

**Pre-conference Short Course**

- **Donna Sterling Short Course:**
  - 7:30 a.m. Short Course Continental Breakfast and check in
  - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Short Course Presentations and Lunch
  - 2:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. PDI Registration Desk Open

**Afternoon Ticketed Workshops**

- **Pre-Conference Ticketed Workshops:**
  - Elementary: Take a Walk on the High Wire! Exploring Balanced and Unbalanced Forces through Inquiry and Practices of Science! (Sponsored by Delta Education)
  - Middle School: Integrating Science, Math, and Workplace Skills (Sponsored by Longwood University)
  - High School: Diversity in Science and Inclusive in the Classroom (Sponsored by National Geographic/Cengage)