



**VAST's Vision:**  
**Excellence in Science Education  
Through Innovation**

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Check the web for news, conference updates, registration, and forms.

# The Science Educator

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## 2023 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



“Science Teachers Leading  
from the Classroom”

November 16, 17, 18

Hotel Roanoke and  
Conference Center

### General Session Speakers



**Laura Akesson** founded Science Overdrive, a Virginia nonprofit aimed at inspiring, providing equipment for, and collaborating with kindergarten. She has taught Physics, Math, and Biomedical Engineering/Design for the past 22 years.



**Dr. Bethany Brookshire** is an award-winning freelance science journalist and author of the critically acclaimed 2022 book *Pests: How Humans Create Animal Villains*. Her work has appeared in *Science News*, *Science News for Students*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic* and other outlets.



**Joshua Whitlinger**, the 2023 Virginia Beach Public Schools Teacher of the Year. A National Geographic Certified Educator, he teaches Earth Science and Physical Science to the gifted and talented.

### PDI Registration is Open

#### Register

Register now for the November PDI. Apply early for financial support. Encourage colleagues to go and to share transportation and lodging. For the best conference experience plan to stay at the Hotel Roanoke to be in the center of the action to maximize your networking opportunities.

[Register on Line](#)

#### Present

VAST invites all educators to share their expertise by presenting at the PDI. Consider doing either a presentation as a single presenter or teaming up with a colleague or two. The online concurrent session presenter proposal form is open from March 1 until June 15.

[Presentation Proposal Form on Line](#)