

Virtual Virginia Wins Virginia Governor's Technology Award for Innovation in Technology for K-12 Education for Virtual Chinese Pilot Developed by Alelo

Pilot Developed in Collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education's Virtual Virginia Online School

September 26, 2011 – Virginia Department of Education's online virtual school program, Virtual Virginia, in collaboration with Alelo, an award-winning creator of innovative, computer-based courses that use "serious" games to teach language and culture, won the Virginia Governor's Technology Award (GTA) for Innovation in Technology for K-12 Education. Alelo received the honor through the Virginia Department of Education's Virtual Virginia Online School, which offers online Advanced Placement, world language, core academic and elective courses to students across the Commonwealth and nation.

In 2010, Alelo teamed with Virtual Virginia Online School to develop a pilot Chinese I course covering a segment of the first-year Chinese curriculum. Alelo's software incorporates state-of-the-art instructional design and patented agent technology for socially intelligent virtual humans that interact with learners in dynamic, immersive scenarios. The pilot met with a positive response from students who cited the interactive exercises and language instruction as some of their favorite activities.

Virginia governmental entities consistently use information technology (IT) as a powerful tool to improve government service delivery and efficiency. For 14 years, the Commonwealth of Virginia Technology Symposium (COVITS) and its prestigious GTA program have recognized innovative technology initiatives in the public sector.

This year, 14 winners and 10 honorable mentions were honored in nine categories, including Virtual Virginia and Alelo in the Innovative Use of Technology in K-12 Education category. Nominees were evaluated by a committee of judges comprised of IT leaders from state agencies, localities, the legislature, courts, and education. Evaluation criteria included business proposition, innovation, and technological merit, value and success.

"We are extremely honored that COVITS recognizes our collaborative efforts and the importance of this technology for today's students," said Dr. W. Lewis Johnson, Alelo's CEO and Chief Scientist. "We are pleased to be teaming with Virtual Virginia on the development of next generation language learning products for K-12 education."

Both the Virginia Department of Education and County of Albemarle were winners in the same category in 2010.

Winners of the 2011 Governor's Technology Awards will be recognized at a special ceremony during COVITS on September 26. Executive summaries of all winning entries will be posted online ([http://covits.org/governor's technology awards](http://covits.org/governor's_technology_awards)) after the ceremony.

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About Alelo

"Alelo" (<http://alelo.com>) is Hawaiian for "language," and it's the company's mission to develop advanced educational products that promote cross-cultural communication skills. Alelo is headquartered in Los Angeles, with offices in Suffolk, Va. and Washington, D.C. The company has an international customer base that includes the U.S. Department of Defense, Voice of America, Australian Defence Force, UK Ministry of Defence, and German Armed Forces.