



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### Virginia Information Technologies Agency

11751 Meadowville Lane  
Chester, Virginia 23836-6315  
(804) 416-6100

TDD VOICE -TEL. NO.  
711

Samuel A. Nixon, Jr.  
Chief Information Officer  
E-mail: [cio@vita.virginia.gov](mailto:cio@vita.virginia.gov)

For immediate release  
Nov. 15, 2012

Contact:  
Marcella Williamson  
(804) 416-6002

### **K-12 students invited to participate in Virginia's Kid Safe Online poster contest** – *Education is the best defense for Internet safety* –

RICHMOND – The Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA), in conjunction with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), is sponsoring the annual Kids Safe Online poster contest.

The contest is open to students in grades kindergarten through 12 from any public school, private school or youth group in the Commonwealth that would like to participate. This is a national contest geared at promoting Internet safety among young people.

“The Internet is part of our daily lives and it is imperative that we teach our young people the importance of Internet safety,” said Michael Watson, Commonwealth Chief Information Security Officer. The risk of identity theft, cyber bullying and stalking among children is increasing at an alarming rate as a result of the Internet. Education is the best defense.”

The deadline for poster entry forms and posters is Dec. 21. Late entries will not be accepted. The winning posters from Virginia for each grade group (K-5, 6-8 and 9-12) will be featured on the VITA website. The top three winning state posters will be submitted to the national Multi-State Cyber Security Awareness poster contest. The winning posters from the national competition will be displayed in the 2014 National Stay Safe Online Calendar and also may be used in campaigns to raise awareness among children of all ages about Internet and computer safety. Winners will be notified by email. For more information, contest rules and entry forms, please visit VITA's website: <http://www.vita.virginia.gov/security/default.aspx?id=11232>.

For information about what citizens and businesses can do to protect against cyber crime, visit VITA's *Information Security Tips* website at: <http://www.vita.virginia.gov/communications/publications/InformationSecurityTips/default.aspx?id=117>

###

#### **About the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA)**

VITA is the Commonwealth's consolidated technology services and solutions provider responsible for the state's technology infrastructure, governance, security and oversight of major IT projects,

and procurement of technology-related goods and services on behalf of state and local governments.  
[www.vita.virginia.gov](http://www.vita.virginia.gov).