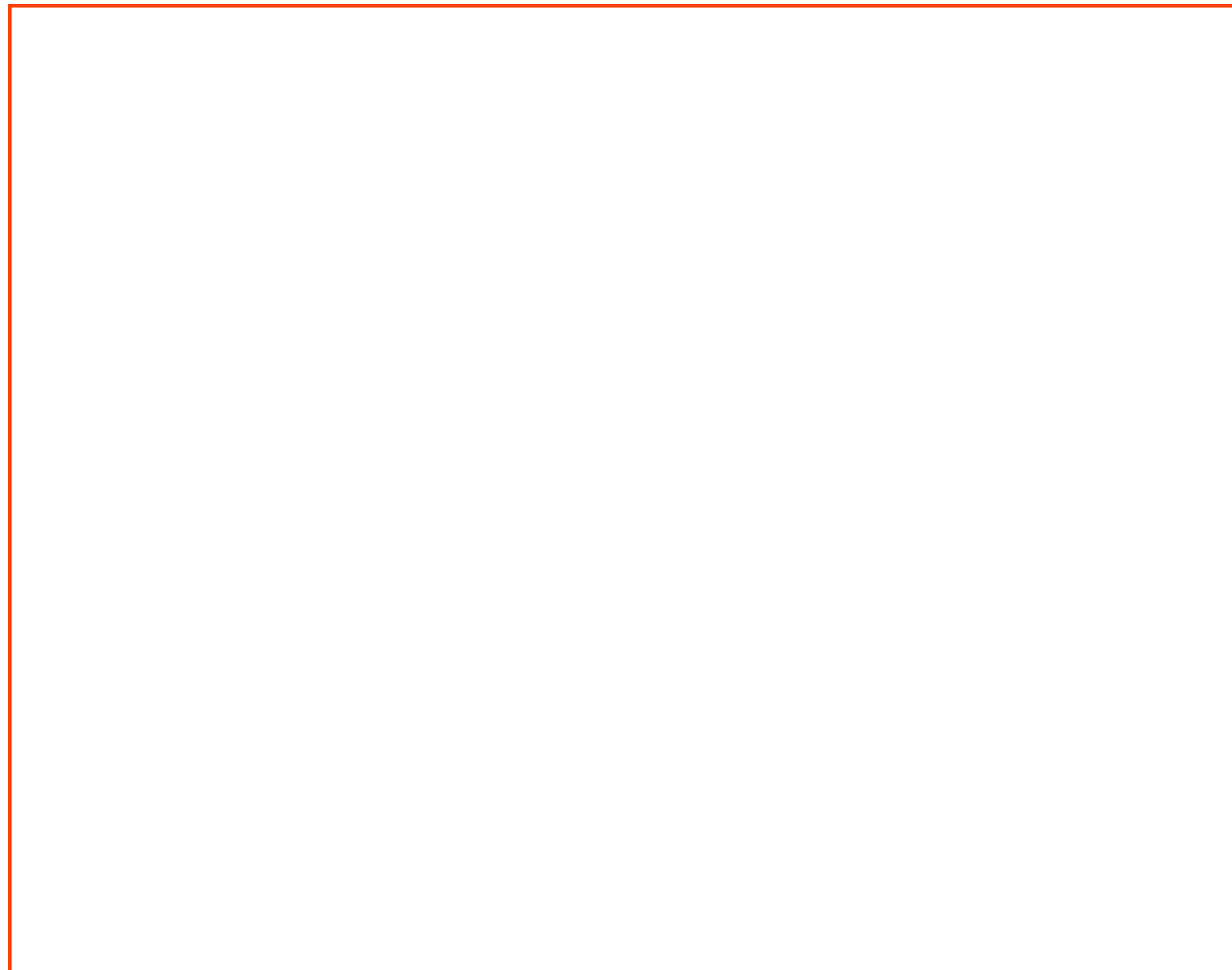


# COMMISSIONER'S AWARD for OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

**Accomplishment:** VDOT Materials Certification Online School Program

**Category:** Innovation and Quality Improvement



**Team Members:**

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If you were in the training business, how would you like to cut costs dramatically, save your students and yourself lots of time, make learning more convenient and automate tedious tasks? That, and more, is what the Materials Division and the VDOT Learning Center did last year to streamline the administration and classes of the Materials Certification School. They accomplished it by using the potential of the VDOT University Virtual Campus.

Before converting the materials certification program to the Virtual Campus, all students were enrolled by a manual process—for registration and payment of fees. Now, that process is online, freeing district certification school coordinators from that heavy responsibility and giving them more time for assessing future class needs and other tasks. Classes are online, too, and students can work on their recertifications at any time, rather than attending class at a particular place and time.

What about cost and time savings? Training spaces no longer need to be rented, saving \$40,000 in costs and 400 hours of time for their administration. Also, employees and instructors do not need to travel to class, saving approximately 9,250 hours. In addition, district coordinators save about 1,500 hours in registration time.

Coordinators are now better able to assess students' progress resulting in a more accountable recertification program. But it happened only because many people worked toward a goal of getting the system running by January 2007. They accomplished that mission, and everyone involved in the materials certification process is a beneficiary.

*Special thanks to Consultant Patricia Locke, Locke Group, who also participated in this team accomplishment.*

**Nominated by:** Andrew Mergenmeier, P.E., State Materials Engineer, Materials Division