

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education • Phone: (573) 751-8247 • E-mail: instrtech@dese.mo.gov

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

This issue primarily focuses on the federal ed-tech grant programs available for school-year 2009-10. A lot can change, and did, in a short period of time!

On Tuesday, February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA), providing over \$100 billion nationwide for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary (K-20) education. While the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has already estimated state allocation amounts for the different ARRA-funded programs, ED is still working on specific program guidance. Meanwhile, Governor Nixon is working on his *Transform Missouri Initiative*, that will present his vision for using the state stabilization funding also included under ARRA. So, while we have more solid information to report in this issue than we had last month, more is likely to come...

What's new is that ARRA will provide \$650 million in K-12 school technology funding (down 35% from the \$1 billion passed in the House version of the bill), and all the funds will be distributed within the year. What hasn't changed is that ARRA ed-tech funding will be distributed through the *Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology* (EETT) program. The principal goal is to improve student achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools. Additional goals include helping all students become technologically literate by the end of the eighth grade and, through the integration of technology with both teacher training and curriculum development, establishing research-based instructional methods that can be widely implemented.

Both regular EETT funds and the one-time ARRA ed-tech funds will be distributed in school-year 2009-10, resulting in Missouri public schools receiving about \$12 million in total. Half of program flow-through dollars – about 30% EETT and 70% ARRA – will be distributed to districts in formula grants and half via competitive grants. As always, 25% of grant funding must support technology-related professional development.

So, Missouri will be able to support formula grants for the first time in four years. With extra funding, however, come extra accounting and accountability challenges. School administrators and technology directors need to start preparing now to be ready to access and make effective use of the stimulus funding by July 1.

Once DESE receives final word of the state grant amount (excluding Bypass costs), Federal Financial Management will post district formula grant allocations. The formula grant application is embedded in the online Federal Grants Application. With grants now part of the new ePeGS system, applicants will not only have to tie proposed grant activities and expenditures to allowable uses under the EETT program, but also have to tie activities and costs to goals, objectives, and strategies in their approved tech plans. Even if your district's tech plan isn't due for state approval in 2009, you should be reviewing your current board-approved tech plan to compare it to your vision of the future and to determine which goals, objectives, and strategies you want to work on and the measures you will use to chart progress. Then enter in ePeGS either the entire plan (if it

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technology literacy resources ▪ Curriculum to help prevent cyber harassment ▪ New P21 resources ▪ NASA Education's do-it-yourself podcast <p>E-rate Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Year 2008 ▪ Funding Year 2007 <p>eMINTS Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FY10 eMINTS application & registration information ▪ eMINTS National Center offices have moved ▪ eMINTS Winter Conference ▪ eMINTS events on the website <p>MOREnet Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Event: A Celebration of Writing ▪ MOREnet Connections 2009 Conference ▪ MOREnet Provides In-service Training for Members <p>Regular Featured Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upcoming Conferences ▪ Grant Funding Opportunities ▪ Contests, Awards, and Fundraisers ▪ Mark Your Calendar ▪ Upcoming Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects ▪ From the Mailbag ▪ eTHEMES <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Index by Topics Archives</p>	<p>needs to be approved) or the necessary parts of the plan (for formula grant use). Meanwhile, also work with your school's federal program contact to better understand the federal application process. Note that a Federal Programs listserv message was sent February 24 with information regarding March webinar trainings on "ePeGS and NCLB Federal Programs."</p> <p>As for competitive grants, Missouri will continue to target projects designed to improve instructional strategies and student achievement (including technology literacy) through implementation of research-based, technology-infused instructional models. What's new is that 75% of the ARRA competitive funding will be set aside for implementation of the eMINTS model and 25% for other research-based models. See the "DESE Budgets/Grant Programs" section of this <i>Newsline</i> for more details about the competitive sub-grant program.</p> <p>To provide a brief recap, the one-time ARRA ed-tech funding will be distributed via the EETT program, following existing program rules and guidelines. Except for the fact that ARRA funding is one time and states have flexibility in establishing their competitive sub-grant program rules and focus areas, Missouri schools have local authority with regards to how they spend their grant dollars. Since the Department does not prescribe district activity, school administrators and technology directors bear the burden of being able to show that funds were expended properly and having effective evaluation measures to show the impact of the funding. And while districts are busy planning for how to spend these new funds, so is the technology industry. When contacted by vendors with ideas for spending your funds, be sure to not only examine this year's pricing but also for next year when there is no stimulus funding. Also investigate the research behind the program or service and whether it is being used in other Missouri schools and/or recognized by state and nation ed-tech experts or organizations. In this issue of <i>Newsline</i>, for example, is an article about <i>Learning.com</i>, a <i>Partnership for 21st Century Skills</i> affiliate, whose programs are aligned to the 2007 NETS standards for students and being implemented in several Missouri districts,</p> <p>Stay tuned to <i>Newsline</i> and the EdTech listserv for more information about FY10 funding and other breaking news. Deborah S. Sutton</p> <p>DESE Budgets / Grant Programs</p> <p>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Program</p> <p><i>The American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan (ARRA) approves spending \$650 million nationwide in support of President Obama's goal to "enable students of all ages to learn in 21st century classrooms, labs, and libraries to help our students compete with any worker in the world." Following are some basic details, based on preliminary discussions with ED program staff. Notes: The following information could change, based on subsequent ED program guidance. Any awards made will be contingent upon Missouri receiving the federal funding. See next section for additional details about the competitive grants offered with ARRA funding.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Purpose: The goals of the NCLB IID program are to improve academic achievement through technology, assist every student in crossing the digital divide, and integrate technology into teacher training and curriculum development resulting in research-based instruction. • Funds Distribution: \$650 million distributed to states in spring 2009, based on states' Title I allocations, and distributed to districts through formula and competitive grants. Districts have until September 30, 2010, to expend grant funds.
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- Eligibility Criteria: Formula grant eligibility and allocation amounts are based on districts' Title I enrollments and allocations. Competitive grant applicants must rank in the top half of district rankings based on either number or percent of "poverty" students (according to U.S. Census data).
- Professional Development Requirement: Districts must set aside at least 25% of Title II.D grants for professional development, to help teachers integrate technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Formula Grant Procedures: Other than districts having only one year, instead of two, to spend stimulus funds once they've been allocated, the formula grants would operate as usual. Districts:
 - align grant activities and expenditures with Title II.D program purposes and tie activities and expenditures to appropriate education technology plan goals, objectives, and strategies [also entered in ePeGS],
 - indicate expenditures of at least 25% of the allocation for professional development to help teachers integrate technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment,
 - have July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, to complete planned activities and through September 30, 2010, expend the funds
 - may transfer funds in and out of Title II.D under the existing transferability rules, and
 - indicate grant outcomes by updating appropriate [ePeGS] goals, objectives, and strategies.
- Competitive Grant Procedures: Grants may be used to implement eMINTS or other research-based instructional models.
 - Only eligible districts may apply or serve as fiscal agents of a consortium,
 - At least 25% of the grant must be spent on professional development to help teachers integrate technology into curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
 - Applicants must align proposed projects with Title II.D program purposes, appropriate education technology plan (and/or CSIP) goals, objectives, and strategies, and address any program criteria established by the state.
 - Districts interested in applying for eMINTS implementation support are instructed to following the regular EETT program guidelines; districts interested in implementing other instructional models are instructed to download and follow the guidelines provided in the FY10 EETT-ARRA Competitive Grant Administrative Manual. [See next section for more details.]

FY10 Competitive Grant Programs

At this time, DESE Instructional Technology is prepared to accept grant applications for competitive grants under the 2009-10 Title II.D Competitive Grant Program (supported with Continuing Resolution funds and one-time stimulus funds), the eMINTS-METS School Grants Program, and the Safe Schools Grant Program. Following are some program basics. The existing programs are projected to operate at or near current levels of funding and with the same administrative rules and guidelines; awards will be made contingent upon DESE receiving the funding. Refer to the program websites for additional information.

FY10 Title II.D–EETT Competitive Grant Program (CR funding) – EETT

- Program purpose: To support competitive projects that aim to improve instructional strategies and student achievement (including technology literacy) through schoolwide implementation of the eMINTS instructional model
- Eligibility criteria: Applicants must rank in the top half of district rankings based on either number or percent of "poverty" students (according to U.S. Census data)
- Two-year grant program: Year 1 grants are competitive
- 25% professional development requirement
- No local match requirement
- Maximum grant awards: Year 1 – \$400,000; Year 2 – \$150,000
- Application deadlines: Year 1 – Tuesday, March 31, 2009; Year 2 – Friday, May 1, 2009
- Application review: April 20-24, 2009
- Notification of approval status: by May 29, 2009
- Website: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/>

FY10 Title II.D—American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Competitive Grant Program – ARRA

(additional details listed in next section)

- Program purpose: To support competitive projects that aim to improve instructional strategies and student achievement (including technology literacy) through schoolwide implementation of eMINTS and other research-based instructional models
- Eligibility criteria: Applicants must rank in the top half of district rankings based on either number or percent of “poverty” students (according to U.S. Census data)
- One-year grant program; eMINTS grants have two-year professional development requirement
- 25% professional development requirement
- No local match requirement
- Maximum grant awards: eMINTS – \$400,000; Other Models – \$200,000
- Application deadlines: eMINTS – Tuesday, March 31, 2009 (use EETT application materials); Other Instructional Models – Friday, April 10, 2009 (use ARRA application materials)
- Application review: April 21-24, 2009
- Notification of approval status: by May 29, 2009
- Website: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/>

FY10 eMINTS-METS School Grants Program

- Program purpose: To support schoolwide implementations of the eMINTS instructional model with particular focus on mathematics and/or science instruction
- Eligibility criteria: Any Missouri district or charter school may apply
- One-year grant program; two-year eMINTS professional development commitment
- 30% local match requirement
- Maximum grant awards: Elementary – \$184,000; Middle or High – \$282,000
- Application deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2009
- Application review: April 21-24, 2009
- Notification of approval status: by May 29, 2009
- Website: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/METS%20School%20Grant%20Pgrm/>

FY10 Safe Schools Grant Program

- Program purpose: To promote alternative school programs and services to address needs of students who exhibit violent, abusive, and chronically disruptive behaviors
- Eligibility criteria: Any Missouri district or charter school may apply
- Four-year grants: Year 1 grants are competitive; Years 2-4 grant amounts are decreased 25% each year
- 30% local match requirement
- Maximum grant awards: District – \$100,000; 2-district Partnership – \$200,000; Consortium – \$300,000
- Application Deadlines: Year 1 - Wednesday, April 15, 2009; Continuation Grants – Friday, May 15, 2009
- Application review: May 11-13, 2009
- Notification of approval status: by May 29, 2009
- Website: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/about.html>
- Workshop: March 13, 2009, in the Jefferson City Governor Office Building.

FY09 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs – Funds Obligation Deadline

Grant recipients are reminded that expenditures for Materials/Supplies (6400) and Capital Outlay (6500) must be obligated by March 31.

State eMINTS/METS School Grants

Five (5) grants were awarded to support school-wide eMINTS implementation models to improve teaching and learning, with focusing on mathematics and/or science instruction. See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions.

Federal Title II.D Competitive Grants

Eight (8) first-year and eight (8) continuation grants were awarded to support school-wide and/or district-wide eMINTS implementation models, designed to meet local educational needs. See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions.

FY09 State Safe Schools Program

Nine (9) first-year and 31 continuation (five second-year, 26 third-year, and one fourth-year) grants were awarded to support district and/or consortium alternative school programs designed to meet the educational needs of targeted students: those exhibiting violent, abusive, and chronically disruptive behaviors. See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions.

Technology Planning and State Approval

About 280 districts and charter schools must submit new long-range technology plans for state approval using DESE's new ePeGS planning tool. HOWEVER, all districts should consider entering their ed-tech plans in ePeGS now, in preparation for Title IID formula grants that might be available through the President's proposed stimulus plan.

Technology Plan State Approval <Reminder>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/index.htm>

Submission Process: Districts with new plans due April 15, 2009, for Department approval are reminded that plans should be submitted via the Department's new electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS). Once it is entered into ePeGS, the ed-tech plan can be previewed and printed from the summary page screen. Review the plan to make sure appropriate objectives and strategies, and action plans as appropriate, have been assigned to the ed-tech plan as intended. Once the plan is final, submit the plan via the ePeGS submit button. Then, copy and paste the "print view" plan into a word processing document, and adjust the font size and the page breaks as needed. Save and print two copies – one for district records and one to be sent to DESE along with the technology plan approval request form.

Approval Process: Submitted plans will be reviewed by Missouri educators, in five locations around the state, on May 7, 2009. Anyone interested in serving as a technology plan reader should complete and submit the [Technology Plan Review Volunteer Application](#) (posted on the District Technology Planning website).

Core Data Census of Technology – Data entry window opens March 15; 2 Item notes

Data entry for the 2009 Census of Technology (Core Data Screens 30 and 31) begins March 15, and ends April 15. Note that an updated FAQ, excerpted Core Data Manual instructions, and paper survey forms are posted to the COT website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>.

The annual Census of Technology (COT) provides important data for the Department to assess Missouri's continuing investment in K-12 education technologies and share with state and national decision-makers to advance public policy and increase public awareness and support for education technology. It is aligned with the *Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan (METSP)*, the *Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP)*, and the *National Educational Technology Standards (NETS)*, and is a primary data source for measuring progress toward meeting the state goals and objectives.

COT is an online census (or survey) administered each spring via DESE Core Data-April Cycle Screens 30 and 31. *Screen 30* is a district-level census, completed by district-level administrators and/or technology specialists; it collects information for all Missouri school districts and charter LEAs, focusing on technology for the district/LEA as a whole. *Screen 31* is a school building census, completed by building administrators and/or technology staff; it assesses planning and training needs for each school, hardware and levels of Internet connectivity in computer labs, libraries, and classrooms, and technology usage statistics for building administrators, teachers, staff, and students. All attendance centers, including preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, area career centers, complete *Screen 31*.

2009 Item Revisions! There are two changes for the 2009 COT.

1. The 8th-grade student technology literacy item (*Screen 30, item 8*) is read only – the percent will be calculated using MOSIS data.
2. The computer table (*Screen 31 Hardware and Support, item 1*) asks for the number of computing devices by location and platform (Apple/Mac, PC, and Handhelds) as usual, and by date of purchase instead of by CPU/other descriptor. There are four choices available: less than 1 year (e.g., purchased in the last year), 1 to 3 years, 4 to 5 years, and 6 years or more. Note: if a computer is significantly upgraded, that computer's purchase date should be adjusted accordingly.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Missouri's Margaret Anderson receives Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award

Margaret Anderson, superintendent of the Knob Noster R-VIII School District was recognized in the ninth annual Tech-Savvy Superintendent Awards. Sponsored by Promethean, the Pearson Foundation, and K12 Inc., *eSchool News* recognized 10 of the nation's top K-12 executives for their outstanding ed-tech leadership and vision. Chosen by the editors of *eSchool News* with help from last year's winners, these 10 exemplary leaders were honored in a private ceremony held on February 20 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Century Club 100, an honorary organization of superintendents, during the American Association of School Administrators' annual conference in San Francisco.

According to the *eSchool News* article (see: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=57122>), the Knob Noster School District under Anderson's leadership invested more than half a million dollars to provide high school students with laptops through a one-to-one computing initiative that is reportedly one of the first in the state. Since Anderson became superintendent in 2004, all of the district's schools have interactive whiteboards, and all high school teachers use tablet computers. The district's schools have wireless internet capabilities, and district officials are in the process of buying an online public access catalog (OPAC) so students can tap into its list of library resources from wherever they have an internet connection. Anderson chairs the district-wide technology committee and expects technology to be used in every classroom. She has devoted professional development days to technology training and has paid teachers to attend training during the summer. She also has the district's technology team working on a way to open up access to some blocked websites after school hours, so students can access online games and music in a way that won't interfere with their schoolwork. [<http://knobnoster.k12.mo.us>.]

Missouri asked to participate in Teacher Technology Use and Education study

Submitted by Anne Leftwich, Assistant Professor, and Tom Brush, Associate Professor in Instructional Systems Technology and Associate Dean of the School of Education, Indiana University

As educational technology professors in the School of Education at Indiana University, we are often looking for new curriculum and ways to prepare our teachers to be great technology users. We believe that it is important to look at how actual teachers are using technology to help inform our curriculum and methods. Please take our survey that will take approximately 12-20 minutes of their time. Your responses will help drive the curriculum for at least 800+ teacher graduates each year. In addition, we will be sharing the results with all our colleagues around the United States. Go to: <http://education.indiana.edu/Default.aspx?alias=education.indiana.edu/levtech>.

ATTAIN Act introduced in the House

The Achievement through Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Act (HR 558) was introduced in the House in January by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. ATTAIN amends the current Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology program in the No Child Left Behind Act, which is expected to be reauthorized by the U.S. House of Representatives in the near future. Emphasizing the importance of using technology in the classroom to help students perform better in school, ATTAIN would better target education technology resources toward technology professional development and systemic reform initiatives in struggling schools.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES

Technology literacy resources

<http://www.learning.com/>

Prove the value of your technology programs with valid technology literacy assessment.

Meeting the NCLB data requirements for technology literacy proficiency is an ongoing challenge for all of us. Ideally, your data will not only help meet state and federal requirements, but will also give you tools to prepare a plan for meeting technology literacy deficiencies and highlight areas of excellence. The only really effective way to achieve both goals is with a valid, standards-based assessment.

Learning.com's technology literacy assessment solutions, [TechLiteracy Assessment](#) and [21st Century Skills Assessment](#) are helping educators across the country provide the required 8th grade data, establish baseline performance at 5th grade, and inform ongoing technology literacy instruction. [TechLiteracy Assessment](#) is aligned to

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

the ISTE NETS standards for technology proficiency and [21st Century Skills Assessment](#) is aligned to the NETS 2007 standards and the Partnership for 21st Century framework. Both assessments include multiple choice and performance-based items and [21st Century Skills Assessment](#) includes an optional portfolio component. The reporting features include the necessary school and district data needed to meet NCLB requirements, as well as classroom and student data to help inform instruction.

A member of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, Learning.com, a premier provider of Web-delivered curriculum and assessment, partners with schools across the United States to improve student learning outcomes. Learning.com solutions transform learning experiences through the understanding of the art and science of Web-based teaching and learning. For more information about [TechLiteracy Assessment](#) or [21st Century Skills Assessment](#) or Learning.com's digital curriculum solutions; [EasyTech](#) and [Aha!Math](#), please visit www.learning.com/products or contact Chris Niemeyer, Central Plains Territory Manager, at cniemeyer@learning.com or 800.580.4640, ext. 481.

Curriculum to help prevent cyber harassment

<http://cybersmartcurriculum.org/>

Offered to schools **free of charge**, in partnership with the National School Boards Association's Technology Leadership Network, the Character Education Partnership, NASP, and the National Cyber Security Alliance, CyberSmart! Education has released a research-based cyber bullying curriculum for K-12 schools. Instead of focusing on scare tactics that have been proven not to work, the CyberSmart! Cyberbullying Package focuses on developing critical thinking and decision-making skills, guiding students to define the problems and issues themselves and take ownership of them to effect real change. The curriculum's lessons, which can be sorted by grade and are aligned with national and information literacy standards, address: **[S]** Safety and Security Online; **[M]** Manners, Cyberbullying, and Ethics, **[A]** Authentic Learning and Creativity, **[R]** Research and Information Fluency, and **[T]** Twenty-First Century Challenges.

New P21 resources

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) recently released the 21st Century Learning Environments White Paper, which finds that successful learning environments break through the barriers that separate schools from the real world, educators from each other and policymakers from the communities they serve. While a lot of attention has been paid to standards, assessments, professional development, and curriculum and instruction, the paper notes that learning environments are an essential component to supporting positive 21st century outcomes for students. The report, sponsored by Cisco Systems, explains that the term 'learning environment' has traditionally suggested a concrete place but, in today's interconnected world, a learning environment can be virtual, online and remote. While the relationship of physical spaces and technological systems to learning continues to be ever important, even more important is how - and whether - these environments support the positive human relationships that matter most to learning, according to the report. The most essential element of all learning environments has always been the community of students, educators, parents, business and civic leaders, and policymakers that constitute the human resources of an education system, each of these constituents need to be supported in a 21st century context. See: http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=600&Itemid=185

NASA Education's do-it-yourself podcast

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/diypodcast/index.html>

NASA Education introduced the Do-It-Yourself Podcast activity in the For Educators section of NASA.gov. Students can preview and download audio and video clips of astronauts performing work in space and on the ground. They can then use these clips to build their own podcast or similar audio/video project. Learning modules are categorized by topic to assist students with creating projects about a subject of interest. Each subject module includes video and audio clips, images, helpful information and links to related resources. For answers to questions about this activity, please contact Deana Nunley at Deana.Nunley@nasa.gov.

E-RATE PROGRAM

Funding Year 2008. USAC released FY2008 **Wave 39** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) February 11. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 88% and denials at/below 85%. To date, FY2008 commitments total \$2.25 billion.

Funding Year 2007. USAC released FY2007 **Wave 78** FCDLs February 25. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 81% and denials at/below 80%. To date, FY2007 commitments total nearly \$2.5 billion.

On the day the FCDLs are mailed, you can check to see if you have a commitment by using USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

FY10 eMINTS application & registration information

Information about eMINTS services and funding opportunities, including grant applications for Title II.D and Missouri METS School Grants programs are available.

Find detailed eMINTS program information, current equipment specifications, and cost estimators to help create grant proposals as well as links to official DESE information, deadlines, and guidelines.

Find details from the eMINTS website at <http://www.emints.org/application/>.

eMINTS National Center offices have moved

The eMINTS National Center offices in Columbia moved to a new location on the University of Missouri campus in February 2009.

New address: 325 Clark Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Phone numbers: Have not changed

E-mail addresses: Have not changed

eMINTS Winter Conference

Find links to 2009 conference podcasts and presentation materials from

<http://www.emints.org/events/winter2009/materials.shtml>

Mark your calendar now for the 10th anniversary eMINTS Winter Conference March 3 – 5, 2010.

eMINTS events on the website

Find detailed information about upcoming eMINTS events, links to register or RSVP, and maps and driving directions to event locations, all available from the eMINTS National Center website – <http://www.emints.org/events/>.

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

Online Event: A Celebration of Writing

Mr. David Harrison (Poet Laureate, Drury University, Springfield, MO) has been visiting with students in the United States and abroad since the early 70s about writing. Wherever he is, his goal is always the same. He believes that all students have something to say and, if they can say it, they can write it. Writing is the sound our voices make on paper. He loves to take the mystery out of writing and show students of all ages some of the best ways to express themselves. The more fun we have together, the more likely students are to find pleasure in writing.

Mr. Harrison will discuss writing with students and they will have the opportunity to ask questions to Mr. Harrison about the writing process. The students' questions will guide much of the discussion. All styles of writing are open for discussion.

MOREnet Update, cont'd.

To prepare for this session, it is recommended that teachers work with their students in advance of the event by talking about writing (whatever is germane to their situation), read some works by David Harrison to have an idea of what they want to know about him, and decide on some good questions to ask. Suggested Harrison titles include for elementary (Somebody Catch My Homework, Bugs, and The Book of Giant Stories); for middle school (Pirates, The Alligator in the Closet, and Cave Detectives); and for high school (Cave Detectives, Wild Country, and Sounds of Rain)

Date: April 28, 2009

Times/Grade Levels:

Grades 3-4: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. CST

Grades 6-8: 11:00 a.m. – Noon CST

Grades 9-12: 1:00 p.m. – 2 p.m. CST

Cost: Free! (Thanks to Drury University, otherwise it's \$2,000)

Two Ways to Connect: Sites can participate by H.323 videoconferencing (space is limited) or connect via web video stream.

To Register: Contact Laurie Edmondson of Drury University at ledmondson@drury.edu or (417) 873-7569. Participants will receive information on connecting to their session (Videoconference or Web Stream) following the completion of registration. The registration deadline is Friday, April 24, 2009.

Note: Schools participating via videoconference must be validated to MOREnet's video gateway prior to event. Contact MOREnet Video Support at (573) 884-6986 to test your connection and validate your videoconference equipment.

This is an opportunity to have an hour of instructive fun rather than another stressful challenge to squeeze into a busy schedule.

Information regarding David Harrison and his works are available on the Missouri Writes for Kids website at <http://mowrites4kids.drury.edu/authors/harrison/>.

MOREnet Connections 2009 Conference

The Connections 2009 conference brings together sessions and solutions designed to help attendees take the leadership role to "Go Green" in the world of information technology. Join us for discussions on green computing, good energy policies and practices, resource conservation, waste reduction, recycling, reusing, proper disposal procedures and more.

- Online registration closes March 10, 2009
- Conference Registration Fees:
 - Combined with Advanced Technical Security Symposium
 - Members: \$285, Non-members: \$440
- Standard Registration: Feb. 16 - March 10, 2009
 - Members: \$220, Non Members: \$320
- Combined with Advanced Technical Security Symposium
 - Members: \$360, Non-members: \$510

For more information visit the conference website at <http://www.more.net/conferences/connections/>.

MOREnet Provides In-service Training for Members

In-service training sessions are available to all program members. MOREnet trainers bring training topics to your location for your audience. MOREnet will customize the session to meet your organization's needs by working with you to select the most appropriate topic, level, and time length. The minimum number of attendees is set at eight with a maximum number of 20 per instructor. Please note that some courses may not be suitable for teaching off site or may require minimum lab specifications. All courses require an equal number of computers to participants.

To accommodate schedules, it is recommended that sessions be scheduled at least 4-6 months in advance.

MOREnet Update, cont'd.

In-service training sessions are available at no additional fee for the REAL, K-12 TNP, MERC, and Affiliate members, including state agencies; however, K-12 TNP, MERC and Affiliate members, including state agencies are responsible for travel-related expenses such as lodging, meals, and mileage.

For more information on how you can bring a MOREnet trainer to your organization, contact MOREnet Training at (573) 884-7200 or send an e-mail to training@more.net.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES**2009**

- March 12 – 14 **Conference on the Young Years**
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach, MO
<http://www.custommeetingplanners.com/cyy/>
- March 18 **MOREnet 2009 Advanced Security Symposium**
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach, MO
<http://www.more.net/conferences/index.html>
- March 19 – 20 **Connections**
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach, MO
<http://www.more.net/conferences/index.html>
- March 19 – 20 **Helix**
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach, MO
<http://www.more.net/conferences/index.html>
- March 22 – 24 **Show-Me Conference**
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach, MO
<http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/leadership/documents/MSDCMarch09.pdf>
- April 3 – 4 **Partnering for Success: School, Family and Community Conference**
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach, MO
For detailed conference and registration information, visit
<http://mssn.org/conference.shtml>.
To submit a presentation proposal, visit
<http://apps.oseda.missouri.edu/MssnRegistration/Presentation.aspx>
- July 9 – 10 **2009 MoDLA Annual Conference: "Gearing Up for the Next Decade"**
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center Osage Beach, MO
<http://modla.org/survey1/index.php?sid=4>
- August 1 – 4 **National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) 2009 National Conference, Bridging Literacies: Critical Connections in a Digital World.** The
Westin Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, MI
<http://www.NAMLE.net/conference>

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- | Due Date | Grant Program |
|-----------------|---|
| 2009 | |
| March 6 | Carol M. White Physical Education Program
http://www.ed.gov/programs/whitephysed/index.html |
| March 6 | Improving Literacy Through School Libraries
http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/index.html |

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

March 12	Access to Artistic Excellence http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/Artsed.html
Varies according to program, many May 9	NCTM Grants and Awards from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Mathematics Education Trust (MET) a variety of grants and awards http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=198#grants
June 1	Save Our History Grant from The History Channel Inspire the youth in your community to become the preservationists of tomorrow. Museums, historic sites, historical societies, preservation organizations, libraries, and archives are invited to partner with a local school or youth group and apply for funding to help preserve the history of their communities. http://www.history.com/content/saveourhistory/grant-program
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving
Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf
Ongoing	RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/guidelines
Ongoing	Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
Ongoing	NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
Ongoing	Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html
Ongoing	ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm
Ongoing	State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

Ongoing

Motorola Community Grants<http://www.symbol.com/category.php/?category=736>

For information about grants, funding, foundations and grant writing, check out the following sites:

AT&T Aspire <http://www.att.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=7736>

An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research, as well as, an online librarian.

<http://www.fdncenter.org>

Converge online: Grant Secrets – <http://www.convergemag.com/summary.php?catid=233>

Edutopia has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit

<http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/grant.php>.

Electronic Learning, from Instructor Magazine, focuses on the use of technology in the classroom. The EL website will soon be expanded to include grant information.

<http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor.htm>.

For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from Technology and Learning**

<http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.

Fundraising for Educators Web Resources (A site intended as a starting point for elementary and secondary school administrators and teachers who are interested in learning more about foundations, fundraising, proposal writing, etc.) – <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/4edfrais.htm>

Fundsnet Online Services: <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=6>

* Computers & technology – <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=4>

Grant writing and funding resources are available at

<http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.

Grantsandfunding.com offers a complete listing of all Thompson Publishing Group publications that focus on grant and funding issues. Thompson Publishing Group publication subscribers have access to a special section that provides resources such as grant deadlines, highlights of funding issues, and links to related websites. <http://www.grantsandfunding.com>

Grantwrangler.com: online listing service of grants and awards for teachers and students. New mygrantwrangler.com is a social-networking site for both grant seekers and grant givers to share insights and experiences – <http://www.grantwrangler.com/index.html>.

Helpforschools.com (sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education and Mid-continent Comprehensive Center) – “grants knowledgebase”–

<http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/login.shtml?redirect=http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/>

In each issue of **The Education World Grants Newsletter**

<http://www.educationworld.com/maillist.shtml>, Don Peek from The School Funding Center

<http://www.schoolfundingcenter.com> recommends a Web resource, book, software program, or another useful tool of interest to the grants community. This resource is a Web page from Teacher Tap which is a part of Eduscapes. <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/topic94.htm>

International Technology Education Association (ITEA) <http://www.iteaconnect.org>

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.

ISTE: Educator Resources: Funding – <http://www.iste.org/>

Mazda <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

MultiMedia Schools, a print magazine published five times a year, addresses multiple technologies used in K-12 schools today. Selected full-text content is now available online. Includes a NewsWatch section, which posts technology-related funding news and links. <http://www.infoday.com/MMSchools>

National Science Foundation (NSF) <http://www.nsf.gov>

NEC Foundation of America <http://www.necfoundation.org>

Non-profit guides: “grant writing tools for non-profit organizations” – <http://www.npguides.org/links.htm>

Northwest Education Technology Consortium (NETC): “Grants and funding” – <http://www.netc.org/grants/index.html>

Public Education Network posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.

SchoolGrants is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. The site offers various fundraising ideas, sample proposals, grant writing tips, and scholarship information. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>

Sign up for the free **GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap** for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.

Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program
http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html

Technogrants.com – <http://www.technogrants.com/>

The Grant Guru <http://www.techlearning.com/article/15512> Gary Carnow is starting a new grant writing series. First up, Building Our Grantseeker’s Toolkit.

The **Grants.gov** site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies, and encompasses over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding over \$350 billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits, and other organizations. <http://grants.gov>

THE Journal: Funding: <http://www.thejournal.com/the/topics/funding/>

The **School Funding Center** is a subscription based database for federal, state, and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter's Successful School Grants, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country. [http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4gqxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4gqxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)

This online version of **eSchool News** monthly magazine contains a grants section with regularly updated grant, scholarship, professional development, and other funding opportunities for both educators and students. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding>

Toyota USA Foundation
http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/

U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

CONTESTS, AWARDS, AND FUNDRAISERS

2009

March 16

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2009 Sylvia Chorp Award for District Innovation in Technology**. Tell us about the unique or inventive technology programs your district has implemented and this year's award could be yours!

The Chorp Award is presented annually by T.H.E. Journal and ISTE to recognize the best district-wide technology program in the country. The winning entry is chosen on the basis of consistent district commitment to excellence and overall success of the program. For more information or to submit your district for this distinguished award, go to: <http://www.1105info.com/t.do?id=1947442:471468>

March 16

The Beveridge Family Teaching Prize (K-12) To recognize excellence and innovation in elementary, middle school, and secondary history teaching, including career contributions and specific initiatives. The prize will be awarded on a two-year cycle rotation: in even-numbered years, to an individual; in odd-numbered years, to a group. Awards in 2009 will be to a group. <http://www.historians.org/teaching/beveridge.htm>

March 20

Campaign for Rights of the Child Essay Contest 2009 "The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) invites youth throughout the U.S. to participate in its second nationwide essay contest, sponsored to raise awareness of the CRC among youth and to engage them in thoughtful reflection on the potential impacts the Convention would have on children and youth in the U.S. The contest is open to U.S. students in grades 6-12 and homeschooled students in the equivalent grade levels (who currently live in the U.S.). Five winners will be chosen and will receive airfare and accommodations for him/herself and one parent/legal guardian to participate in the Campaign's 2009 Symposium. The Instruction Kit and Application are available for download at the program website. http://childrightscampaign.org/crcindex.php?sNav=youth_snav.php&sDat=youth_dat.php

March 30

ABC-CLIO sponsors the first annual **History Uncovered competition** that emphasizes research skills along with historical and critical thinking. <http://www.abc-clio.com/historyuncovered/>

March 31

Poster Contest to Encourage Internet Safety and Security The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), are launching their first joint contest for K-12 students. Students will create posters, video, or podcast aimed at encouraging other young people to use the Internet securely and safely. www.staysafeonline.org/content/2009-k-12-poster-video-contest.

April 24

InvenTeams Grant Initiative The Lemelson-MIT Program is currently accepting applications for 2010 InvenTeams, which are teams of high school students, teachers, and mentors that receive grants up to \$10,000 each to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. The InvenTeam initiative is designed to excite high school students about invention, empower students through problem solving, and encourage an inventive culture in schools and communities. <http://web.mit.edu/inventeams/apply.html>

April 30

America's Greenest School Essay Contest

Win a hybrid school bus, a \$5,000 scholarship, and more.

<http://www.americasgreenestschool.com/>

May 1, 2009
Grades 7-12
2010
Grades K-6

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching from the National Science Foundation recognizes teachers for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science.

May 1, 2009 - Grades 7-12, 2010 - Grades K-6

<http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=view>

Contests, Awards, and Fundraisers, cont'd.

- May 15 **MetLife Foundation – National Association of Secondary School Principals NASSP Breakthrough Schools** The goal of the project is to identify, recognize, and showcase middle level and high schools that serve large numbers of students living in poverty and are high achieving or dramatically improving student achievement. Selected schools must have 40% or more students eligible for free and reduced-price meals.
http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=66&DID=66

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- | 2009 | EVENT |
|---------------|---|
| March 13 | Safe Schools Grant Program Information Workshop
Governor Office Building, Room 450
200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Registration required, send your name, email address, and phone number to: Janice Libbert: Janice.libbert@dese.mo.gov or (573) 751-8247
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 |
| March 31 | FY10 Title II.D Year 1 Applications due |
| March 31 | FY10 eMINTS-METS School Grant Applications due |
| April 10 | EETT-ARRA – Other Model Grant Applications due |
| April 15 | Technology Plans due for re-approval due at DESE
Visit http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/districtstatus.htm for local plan expiration dates. Visit http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/ for planning resources. |
| April 15 | FY10 Safe Schools Year 1 Grant Applications due |
| April 20 – 23 | Title II.D and eMINTS-METS Grant Reading |
| May 1 | FY10 Title II.D Year 2 Grants due |
| May 7 | Technology Plan Reading |
| May 11 – 14 | Safe Schools Grant Reading |
| May 15 | FY10 Safe Schools Continuation Grants due |

UPCOMING VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- | 2009 | EVENT |
|-------------|---|
| March 6 | RoundTrips is student-centered distance learning developed by classroom teachers for use by classroom teachers and delivered via innovative and engaging technology. Through the unique resource of RoundTrips' portable satellite transmitter and video studio, expand your classroom beyond its four walls and textbooks. Connect your students to a wide range of topics and experts through live, interactive virtual field trips, and videoconferences. Apply learning objectives in meaningful and authentic settings. Have students ask questions of experts they couldn't otherwise meet. Go places that bring your curriculum to life in new and powerful ways. Contact Roundtrips at roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us , or (314) 773-6934, or visit http://www.roundtrips.org .
In conjunction with MOREnet and the Missouri Department of Transportation, the next RoundTrips videoconference in its ongoing Project MO Bridge series Building the Glasgow Bridge--Design Processes: Looking at the Math is set for March 6. The program will explore the mathematics behind the steps engineers take to create design |

Upcoming Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects, cont'd.

plans for a new bridge. Students will interact with engineers to find out how they weigh conflicting conditions, scientific principles, and federal regulations to begin the process of designing a bridge and utilize algebra, trigonometry, and computer simulations to make those designs come to life.

A short program description including times and grade level, as well as details about the program objectives, its format and agenda, pre-program activities, post-program activities, related curriculum standards, related vocabulary, etc., can be found at the CILC exhibit for the show: <http://www.cilc.org/search/content-provider-program.aspx?id=2459> and also at <http://www.roundtrips.org>. More details on the series of programs and an archive of previous programs in the series can be found at MOREnet's website, <http://mobridge.more.net>.

The Fairfax Network <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/>, an award-winning producer of distance learning programming creates programming for educators to use in the classroom, and for public television stations and cable systems. The lineup includes quality K-12 enrichment, parenting, and staff development programs. Many of the shows come with additional resource information, teacher guides, and classroom activities created to fit seamlessly into the curriculum. Fairfax Network programs are free to schools, school systems, cable companies, and public television programmers.

March 31 **Nation to Nation** <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/nation/index.htm>

March 31, 2009

1 – 1:45 p.m. (ET)

For Students in Grades 9 – 12

As the first president of the United States, George Washington faced a myriad of challenges in solidifying the nation under one federal head as well as overseeing foreign relations with both European nations and the Indian Nations of America. From his job as a surveyor to his military responsibilities on the frontier to his role as the first elected leader of a new country, Washington had varied contact with Indian tribes on the continent.

This program, recorded at the Oklahoma History Center, will explore whether Washington's Indian diplomacy and policies set the stage for 19th century American policy. Panelists will explore how his beliefs and practices shaped his policies and how those policies were, or were not, carried out in his legacy. Moderated by Gerard Baker, superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Park, the panel will include Fred Anderson, University of Colorado; Brett Rushforth, College of William and Mary; and Robert Miller, Lewis and Clark Law School.

Collaborations Around the Planet (CAPspace) is a social networking tool for educational videoconferencing built into the new Read Around the Planet registration system <http://projects.twice.cc/index.php>.

Middle of April
through Middle
of May

Flat Stanley

Status: Open

URL: <http://projects.twice.cc/?l=collaboration&id=218>

Connections: H.323

Grades: 1

Description: I am a first grade teacher in Newport News, Virginia and am looking for a classroom that would like to collaborate on a Flat Stanley Project.

Open

5th Grade Literature Book Discussion

Status: Open

URL: <http://projects.twice.cc/?l=collaboration&id=213>

Connections: H.323

Grades: 5

Description: Small groups (5-10 students) will select a literature book, read it, and

Upcoming Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects, cont'd.

discuss together. This can be done with a polycom or using an internet-based conferencing such as ichat or skype.

Open

Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award Discussion

Status: Open

URL: <http://projects.twice.cc/?l=collaboration&id=211>

Connections: H.323

Grades: 3, 4, 5

Description: Classes will meet to discuss the book nominations for the 2008-2009 Maud Hart Lovelace award. Students who have read the book will give a brief book talk. Following the book talk, a brief discussion of the book will occur. At the end of the video conference, a mock voting will happen and the students in collaboration will choose the winners.

Open

21st Century Learner Videoconference

Status: Open

URL: <http://projects.twice.cc/?l=collaboration&id=214>

Connections: H.323

Grades: 5

Description: Students communicate using one or a variety of the following 21st Century skills. Suggestions for activities are below:

Blogs Students write responses to their reading on a shared blog and give feedback to each other via the comments. The culminating videoconference connects students together to discuss the book or with an author or specialist related to the book. See <http://stovall.notlong.com> for an example. Students collaboratively write a story using a blog or discussion tool for writing or sharing ideas before writing. The videoconference culminates in the presentation of the story. See <http://blogvc.notlong.com> for an example.

Collaborative Document Creation & Wikis Collaborative document creation tools can be used to have students work in groups across sites to develop solutions, poetry, graphs, presentations, essays and more. The videoconference is used to set the stage for the collaborative work and to culminate when the task is completed.

Podcast Classes exchange podcasts on a topic and then videoconference to discuss or create podcasts reporting on their VC.

Registration is now OPEN for **MAGPI's K12 Spring Videoconference Programs** The following programs are open to non-MAGPI members this spring. Remember, all programs have a limited number of interactive spots and fill quickly - - so be sure to register for your favorite program(s) ASAP! Programs are listed in chronological order, but some have quickly approaching registration deadlines.

Advanced registration is required for all programs. To register for a particular program, follow the program link under the title and click on the 'register now' button. Registrants will receive a confirmation containing information about the program as well as the required videoconference verification test.

All programs are FREE of charge and require the school or organization be connected to the national research and education network - Internet2 - and have H.323 videoconferencing capabilities.

February 26 –
May 15**Youth and Violence: A Global Exploration**<http://www.magpi.net/programs/youthviolence.html>

Grades 9-12

February 26 – May 15, 2009 * 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. ET

Youth violence is a social problem that affects many different countries and cultures around the world. Although the root causes of youth violence (such as poverty, war, drug use, and prejudicial beliefs) vary from country to country, the resulting symptoms of youth violence are universal. Feelings of alienation, connectedness, and hopelessness are experienced to some extent by all youth offenders regardless of race, religion,

Upcoming Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects, cont'd.

nationality, sexual orientation, or gender. Bringing students together from different countries, this workshop will take a cross-cultural look at how youth violence varies in different regions of the world and how young people can break the patterns of violent behavior and prevent it from following them into adulthood. Over a period of four months, students will work together to explore this issue and then create digital media projects that tell their own community's story. A digital media project festival will conclude this project.

March 12

100th Day of School Celebration

<http://www.magpi.net/programs/100days.html>

Grades K-2

March 12, 2009 * 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

Celebrate the 100th Day of School in this national celebration! The 100th day of school is more than just a milestone worth noting - it's the perfect time to have fun with the number 100. Jake learned all about the 100th day of school in Jake's 100th Day of School, written by Dr. Lester Laminack. Read the book, create your own class 100th Day of School project, and share your experiences with the author during this exciting videoconference event!

March 23 –
April 3

Alex's Virtual Lemonade Stand Project

<http://www.magpi.net/programs/alexlemonade.html>

Grades K-12

March 23 through April 3, 2009

Kids helping Kids Make a Difference! Join other schools across the country as they host lemonade stands to raise money for pediatric cancer research and participate in other related projects. Schools will collaborate with each other through a blog, a special "kick off" videoconference spirit rally and closing project collage videoconference event. During this two week project, each school will hold their own lemonade stands to help raise funds for pediatric cancer. Schools can hold one big lemonade stand day or a series of lemonade stand events throughout the two weeks. After each day of sales, schools will report their totals through the website. Last year we raised more than \$23,000. Think we can double it?

Resources for Online Field Trips

- **The Virtual Smithsonian:** Includes online tours of exhibits in the museums of natural history, American history, and art in Washington. http://2k.si.edu/2k/node_rotunda/indexe.htm
- **Jet Propulsion Lab at NASA:** Allows participants to choose a virtual character and take a trip through an animated museum, mission control, and a robotics lab. <http://virtualexpedition.jpl.nasa.gov/smmk/top/gates>
- **National Geographic Expeditions Online:** Features a database of lesson plans, online activities, and maps tied to the national geography standards. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/>
- **Ball State University Electronic Field Trips:** Offers live and archived video tours of a variety of topics and destinations, including the Florida Everglades, gray whale migrations from Southern California to Mexico, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Includes low-cost Web resources for each lesson. <http://www.bsu.edu/efl/home/31digest.php>
- **Colonial Williamsburg:** Programs for grades 4-8 with live broadcasts on public-television stations and archived video presentations on the Web highlighting people, places, and events throughout history. <http://www.history.org/trips/>

FROM THE MAILBAG

The second annual regional **Educators' Technology Conference** for all K-16 administrators, teachers, professors, technology coordinators, and vocational educators in a four-state area (Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas) will be held July 30 - 31, 2009, in Rogers, Arkansas. Detailed information about the conference program information, registration, and hotel information is on the following website at <http://arkscience.org/meet.htm>. The

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

conference is structured so that you can drive in and obtain six hours of technology credit and return home in one day. Costs for conference registration is \$45 for one day or \$60 for two days (costs go up after July 15, 2009, to one day for \$60 and two days for \$75).

Preparing for Earth Day--April 22, 2009

Earth Day will be commemorated this year on April 22. Below are a list of websites and resources that may be helpful to educators as they plan for classroom activities and supplemental curriculum for a variety of subject areas.

- **Pollinators, Plants, and You** Nature's Partners is a new inquiry learning-based curriculum for students in 3rd-6th grade. Each of its seven modules offers three or four activities designed to engage young people in active, investigative science following a learning cycle of exploration, concept introduction/development, and concept application. The activities are appropriate for the formal classroom or for a nonformal education setting and can easily be adapted to fit the needs of the students and the teaching situation. Learn more by visiting <http://www.nappc.org/curriculum/index.php>.
- **Earth to the Classroom** The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), in partnership with The Weather Channel, recently launched Classroom Earth, a program designed to encourage the inclusion of environmental education into all high school subjects--from biology to art--and make it easier for teachers to access best practices online. The site features resources and information focused on the integration of environment-themed lessons into high school curricula. The website also allows teachers to post their own lesson plans, activities, and other resources. Learn more by visiting <http://www.classroomearth.org>.
- **Watch for It!** Walt Disney Studios will celebrate Earth Day 2009 with the debut of Earth, the first feature-length nature documentary from its new production banner, DisneyNature. This new film is from award-winning British producer/director Alastair Fothergill, whose credits include the Emmy and Peabody award-winning Planet Earth series (BBC and The Discovery Channel) and The Blue Planet. Check out the trailer for the movie at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWmZqSIIWSC>. Teachers can also download curriculum and educational guides at: <http://disney.go.com/disneynature/>.
- **Water: H2O = Life Exhibit on Tour & Online** The American Museum of Natural History's Water: H2O = Life exhibit is now on tour. Upcoming stops include the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago (IL), the Great Lakes Science Center (MI), and others. The exhibit explores many aspects of water and its importance to life. No stops planned in your area? Visit: <http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/water/> for an online version of the exhibit, educator resources, online games and quizzes for your students, and more!
- **Additional Resources:** Check out these websites for Earth Day 2009:
 - History of Earth Day <http://holidays.kaboose.com/earthday-history.html>
 - Lesson Plans <http://www.epa.gov/teachers/>
 - Earth Day Statistics <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm>
 - Kids & Earth Day <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/explorations/kercc/>
 - Earth Day Fact Sheet www.nationalcenter.org/EarthDay00History.html
 - More Facts & Information <http://www.history.com/states.do>

New online game brings a fresh approach to learning middle-school math

Maryland Public Television, in collaboration with MIT's Education Arcade and educational media producer FableVision, has applied the latest research in game theory and design to produce a free learning tool to help all students learn pre-algebra concepts regardless of their math ability. "Lure of the Labyrinth" <http://labyrinth.thinkport.org> is an online middle-school math game developed to reach today's tech-savvy students in a contemporary way. Using the immersive characteristics of digital games, it blends a compelling storyline with multi-level puzzle play to build pre-algebra skills in proportions, fractions, and ratios; variables and equations; and numbers and operations. Math is cleverly woven throughout an underground, monster-inhabited world. Students disguise themselves as a monster avatar plunging into a shadowy factory on a rescue mission to save their missing pet. "Lure of the Labyrinth" can be played individually or in teams; an online communication device allows players to exchange ideas and game strategies and encourages collaborative game play. <http://labyrinth.thinkport.org/www/>

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

PBS Teachers Live! Webinar Series Offers Ideas on Using Digital Media to Enhance Student Learning in Core Subjects

PBS Teachers <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/> has introduced a series of free monthly webinars designed to help preK-12 educators learn new ways to integrate online instructional resources in the classroom and engage students in curriculum lessons. The PBS Teachers Live! webinar series features leading education experts, authors, and PBS producers who will discuss timely and relevant curriculum-related topics, and share their knowledge and ideas on using digital media to create rich learning experiences for students. Classroom 2.0, the online social network founded by Steve Hargadon for teachers interested in Web 2.0 and collaborative technologies, is partnering with PBS Teachers to host the webinars.

For more information and to register for the webinars, go to <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/>. Registration entitles educators to free membership in PBS Teachers and access to all its services, including PBS Teachers Connect, an online learning community where preK-12 educators can collaborate with their peers, discuss digital media use, share ideas, and save online instructional resources in their online profile.

PBS Teachers Introduces 'Activity Packs' Widgets

PBS Teachers has introduced PBS Teachers Activity Packs, a growing library of web-based widgets that contain links to high-quality PBS education resources and activities focused on a specific curricular theme for multiple grade levels.

Activity Pack themes cover a wide range of subject areas, including reading/language arts, science, social studies, health, and art. Some currently available themes are:

- Arts Everywhere
- China
- Forensic Science
- Great American Authors
- Healthy Choices
- Money in America
- Mysteries of the Universe
- Unsung Heroes in African American History
- Technology & Ethics
- Volunteerism

The Activity Packs are accessible from the PBS Teachers website (<http://www.pbsteachers.org>), a portal for preK-12 educators to access PBS' educational services and a searchable library of more than 9,000 local and national standards-based teaching activities, lesson plans, on-demand video assets, and interactive games and simulations. PBS Teachers is also home to education blogs **Learning Now** <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/learning.now/> with education technology expert Andy Carvin, and **Media Infusion** <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/mediainfusion/> which focuses on practical ways to integrate multimedia resources and technology into the classroom.

Teachers can sign up for free membership in PBS Teachers and have access to free webinars and PBS Teachers Connect, an online learning community where preK-12 educators collaborate with their peers, discuss digital media integration, and save online instructional resources for later use.

To explore the library of PBS Teachers Activity Packs, visit <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/>.

From the School Library Journal (SLJ) <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/>, a reviewer of books, multimedia and technology for children.

SLJ has gathered some of their coverage of the topic, added information about some of the best available resources, and included links to others that you may find useful in planning Lincoln celebrations of your own.

- **Lincoln in Print: SLJ Reviews Books on Abraham Lincoln**
http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6632520.html?nid=3792&rid=reg_visitor_id&source=link#Lincolnprint

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

- **Lincoln on the Web: Internet Sites Covering President Lincoln and Bicentennial Events**
<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6633898.html>
- **All About Abe: Focus on Lincoln Bicentennial**
<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6526713.html?q=focus+on+the+lincoln+bicentennial>
- **Lincoln's Legacy: New Books Offer Revealing Insights into a Remarkable Life**
<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6599396.html>
- **Happy Birthday, Abe: Celebrate Lincoln's Big 2-0-0 with These Fun Books**
<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6617659.html>

Check out these vocabulary resources from SLJ

- **Learning Vocabulary Fun** <http://www.vocabulary.co.il/> features vocabulary "games" for every level, including Word Search, Cross Word Puzzles, Hang Mouse, Matching Games, Unscramble Puzzles, and Quizzes. The games are created in Flash and offer students different categories to choose from for a variety of vocabulary words to work with.
- **FreeRice** <http://www.freerice.com/> Presented with questions typical to an SAT test, students click on the answer and if they get it correct, 10 grains of rice are donated to the United Nations World Food Program (rice is paid for by sponsors who have their advertising shown at the bottom of the screen --- click advertising at its best). 10 grains of rice per word doesn't sound like much, but to date, the site has donated over 58 billion grains. (A great math activity would be to have students calculate how many pounds of rice this is, or how many bags of rice, or how many people can be fed with this rice). There are other subjects recently added along with the vocabulary quizzes.
- **VerbaLearn** <http://www.verbalearn.com/> This free site works for students preparing for SAT, ACT, or GRE exams. A quiz immediately starts and any words that the student misses gets added to a word list. In offline mode, students download an .mp3 file of all their words being read aloud, defined and used in a sentence --- perfect for putting on an iPod or mp3 player to study at anytime.
- **Vocabulary.com** <http://www.vocabulary.com/> Along with interactive word puzzles (categorized by theme or SAT/ACT tests) and word lists, students can learn how to "unlock" the meaning of millions of words by working through the "Root-Word" lessons, made up of Latin and Greek "roots and cells."

From Hotchalk

- **Call for Entries: Hotchalk's Virtual Science Fair**
<http://www.hotchalk.com/mydesk/index.php/editorial/116-grants-and-contests/600-call-for-entries>
As part of its ongoing effort to drive forward 21st Century STEM education, HotChalk is partnering with the Federation of American Scientists to host a Virtual Science Fair for high school students.

All U.S. high school students, either as an individual, a student team (up to 5 students), or a whole class can enter a project for any science topic taught in high school, for instance, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics, etc.

Participants enter by submitting an original video, from 2 – 5 minutes in length, on one of the following Project Challenges

- **Experiment:** Perform and explain an experiment on video.
- **Creative:** Communicate a scientific idea in a creative way, for instance via singing, dancing, poetry, etc.
- **Digital:** Present and explain a molecular process, using only graphics and video of drawn objects, no people.

Note: In all three types of presentations, entrants should address all aspects of a scientific presentation. If no experiment is being performed, then the Methods section and Results section may be omitted.

Deadline is April 20, 2009.

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- **A Complaint Free World** Tired of hearing students complain? Help transform negative attitudes to positive ones. A Complaint Free World offers 10 free K-12 curriculum units that help empower students, build character and instill such 21st century skills and attitudes as cooperation, vision, gratitude, peer debate, journaling for reflection, and more. Learn more at <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/articles/AComplaintFreeWorld.html>.
- **African American History Videos** http://www.hotchalk.com/index_new.html Celebrate the achievements of African Americans.
 - **African American World | PBS** Presents the broad range of the black experience in the United States, from the Harlem Renaissance to the ongoing debate over affirmative action. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/index.html>
 - **African American Odyssey** This Library of Congress site showcases the library's collection of rare books, government documents, manuscripts, musical scores, plays, films and recordings related to the African American experience. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaoh.html>
 - **African American Heritage Teacher Toolkit for Grades K-12** A selective guide to links, lesson plans, books, CDs, videos, posters and more. <http://creativefolk.com/toolkit/home.html>
 - **Our Shared History, African American Heritage** A comprehensive project of The National Park Service to preserve and interpret African American history. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/>
 - **The African Presence in the Americas: 1492-1992** Designed to introduce you to the dynamics and dimensions of the 500 year history of African people in the Americas. Four broad themes have been selected for exploration: Migration, Work, Culture, and Resistance. <http://www.si.umich.edu/CHICO/Schomburg/>
 - **From Slavery to Civil Rights: A Timeline of African-American History** Contains hundreds of items documenting African-American history. The "For Teachers" links will help you extend this activity for your students. Included are links to specific collections or exhibits, as well as links to several excellent resources. <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/civilrights>
 - **The History Makers-- African American History Archive** Features a vast collection of resources that focus on slavery, the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement, music, sports and entertainment. <http://www.thehistorymakers.com>
 - **Teaching with Historic Places -- African American Lesson Plans** Created by National Park Service interpreters, preservation professionals, and educators, these lessons are free and ready for immediate classroom use by students in history and social studies classes. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/twhp/feb00.htm>
 - **Africans in America** Presented in four parts, each era contains a historical Narrative, a Resource Bank of images, documents, stories, biographies, and commentaries, and a Teacher's Guide for using the content of the website and television series in U.S. history courses. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html>
 - **Infoplease: Black History Month** Includes history and timelines, biographies, quizzes, and more. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html>
 - **Underground Railroad--History of Slavery, Pictures, Information** Learn what challenges slaves faced in National Geographic's Underground Railroad adventure. Get information, pictures, photographs, biographies, resources, and more. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/>
 - **Black History Month Worksheets and Printables** Features 35 various worksheets on the theme of Black History. http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/soc_studies/blackhistory/

The Virtual Learning Magnet for Space Science and Mathematics: Proof of Concept

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is engaged in a Proof of Concept for a Virtual Learning Magnet (VLM) for Space Science and Mathematics with support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). CCSSO's strategic plan calls for setting the education context for a new century, and the Proof of Concept for the VLM supports this by exploring how states can bring together teachers and subject matter experts to support learners with targeted interests in areas of global importance. The VLM is designed to supplement, and not duplicate, the offerings of state-led virtual schools.

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The Proof of Concept will engage a small number of students from 8 - 10 states and is focused on the study of introductory physics through the lens of space science and aeronautics research. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in an interdisciplinary independent study in cooperation with actual NASA missions. Based on what is learned during the Proof of Concept and the response of the states, CCSSO plans to expand the VLM for Space Science and Mathematics to offer learners from all states the opportunity to earn several credits toward a high school diploma. CCSSO envisions a network of VLMs as the concept expands to other areas of career and academic specialization.

The Virtual Learning Magnet design is largely student-directed. It includes strong elements of student choice as well as numerous options for how learning is demonstrated. All credits earned through the VLM will be performance-based. For more information, email VLM@ccsso.org.

Up to ten.com

This site has many activities to keep young students interested, such as Animated Cards to send out, animated coloring pages, games for ages 6-10, and "Just for Parents" with practical ideas and advice.

<http://www.coloringpage.org/>

Physiclips <http://www.physiclips.unsw.edu.au/> offers teachers and students multimedia learning activities that make learning the principles of physics more interesting. The site uses film clips, animations, still photos, montages and diagrams to demonstrate the different principles of physics, and includes links to other supporting and related pages as well as to background information and materials. Physiclips are available for such topics as constant acceleration, projectiles, circular motion, Newton's laws, center of mass, momentum, rotation, and more.

National Geographic Wildlife Filmmaker

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/filmmaker.html>

This tool for digital storytelling allows young filmmakers to drag clips, sounds, music, and captions to the timeline area. This tool is useful for elementary animal exploration and for class presentation.

eSchool News founded the **Student Video Network (SVN)** to give students across North America the chance to experience what it's like to be real news anchors and reporters. Students are encouraged to create and submit video samples that illustrate how they handle breaking news coverage. Each month, eSchool News will announce the most-watched SVN video of the month, and every four months, a judging panel chooses the best video of the quarter. Judges will choose videos based on criteria such as relevancy, quality of content, and creativity.

Each quarter's winners could be invited to a major educational technology event such as the annual National Education Computing Conference for an awards ceremony. Check out the SVN at <http://www.eschoolnews.tv/>.

Get Graphic: The World in Words and Pictures is the website of a community-wide two year project designed to introduce teens, parents, librarians and teachers to the exciting and extremely popular literary format of graphic novels. Although it is for a project being conducted in Western New York, the website still gives enough information to teachers, parents and librarians on what graphic novels might offer for students in all areas.

<http://www.getgraphic.org/>.

New Voices from J-Lab The institute for Interactive Journalism <http://www.j-lab.org/> helps journalists and citizens use digital technologies to develop new ways for people to participate in public life with projects on innovations in journalism, citizen media, news games, interactive stories, entrepreneurship, research, training, and publications. J-Lab also provides games, and interactive exercises such as When does a news "experience" tell the story better than a news "story"? When can news "games" - say, exercises on making election choices, balancing the budget, or understanding the environmental impact of certain actions - help people grasp important issues better than narrative explanations? http://www.j-lab.org/cool_stuff/

Common Sense Media, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that aims to improve the impact of media and entertainment on kids and families, has introduced a free media-education curriculum aimed at parents. The

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program—which the organization calls the first of its kind—offers resources that address parents' questions and concerns about television, movies, the internet, gaming, and more, giving schools the tools they need to run an effective media-education program for parents and faculty. The program provides resources on more than 30 topics, including cyber bullying, virtual worlds, advertising, social networking, and the impact of media on kids' health and development. <http://www.common sense media.org/educators>

Scotch™ Brand **Science Fair Central** has teamed with Discovery Education to offer this new resource for teachers, parents, and young scientists. ScotchScienceFair.com emphasizes hands-on investigations, field work, and doing science like a "real scientist," <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/index.html>.

CyberSmart! <http://cybersmart.org/> By helping educators and students acquire 21st century skills, CyberSmart! in partnership with The National School Boards Association's Technology Leadership Network, the Character Education Partnership, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the National Cyber Security Alliance does more than promote messages alerting educators, students, and parents to the dangers of the Internet. By addressing 21st century skills, as well as safety and security issues, CyberSmart! paves the way for the education sector constituents to harness the Internet's potential to foster creative inquiry, collaboration, and critical thinking—the skills students today need to be successful learners and workers in our digital world. Resources available from the organization include:

- **The CyberSmart! Cyberbullying Package**, <http://cybersmartcurriculum.org/cyberbullying/>, a suite of K-12 lessons. These lessons were developed using an integrated approach; examining all current research findings and using best practices from the fields of cyber security, school violence prevention, and character education to impact behavioral change. These materials offer schools the opportunity to begin a dialogue with students and build a sustained cyberbullying prevention campaign to continually remind the school community about safe, ethical online use.
- **CyberSmart! Online Workshops**, <http://cybersmart.org/workshops/> facilitated professional development opportunities that give educators a hands-on experience in 21st century skills to meet the learning needs of today's students. Educators engage hands-on in the same kinds of learning they are expected to encourage in the classroom. CyberSmart! Online Workshops are structured as uniquely supportive professional learning communities offering anytime/anywhere scheduling and easily customized solutions for transforming teaching and learning. The interactive format includes guided learning videos, engaging discussion, and use of Web 2.0 tools to appeal to varying levels of technical expertise. At the heart of every learner-centered workshop is the inquiry-based CyberSmart! Knowledgebase, where educators question experts on thousands of topics. The workshops are guided by an experienced facilitator and offer a flexible format with no scheduled meeting times. Educators complete bite-sized tasks structured to encourage collaboration and completion within a research-based professional learning community. Topics for the five online workshops are:
 - Safety and Security Online
 - Manners, Cyberbullying, & Ethics
 - Authentic Learning and Creativity
 - Research and Information Fluency
 - Twenty-first Century Challenges
- The **free CyberSmart! Student Curriculum** <http://cybersmartcurriculum.org/> is easily integrated, in part or in full, into your current curriculum. Each lesson stands on its own. A consistent lesson model, including free reproducible student activity sheets, makes planning easy for thousands of educators worldwide. Standards-based lessons are aligned with national and state technology and information literacy standards. CyberSmart! prepares students to use the Internet for communication, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving—the new basic skills for 21st century learning.
- **CyberSmart! Educator Toolbar** http://cybersmarttoolbar.com/main/toolbar_registration.php?cookie_set=1 puts 21st century skills into practice every day, with just-in-time 24/7 access to annotated essential resources to support student learning.

From The Communicator, <http://www.webcommunicator.org/> a publication of The Dirksen Congressional Center is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization in Pekin, Illinois, that seeks to improve civic engagement by promoting a better understanding of Congress and its leaders through archival, research, and educational programs.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

Call For Participation: Congress In The Classroom® 2009

http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_programs_CongressClassroom.htm *Congress in the Classroom* is a national, award-winning education program now in its 17th year, dedicated to the exchange of ideas and information on teaching about Congress. The 2009 workshop will be held Monday, July 27 - Thursday, July 30, at Embassy Suites, East Peoria, Illinois.

Congress in the Classroom is designed for high school or middle school teachers who teach U.S. history, government, civics, political science, or social studies. Forty teachers will be selected in 2009 to take part in the program. All online applications must be received by no later than April 15, 2009. The 2009 program will focus on two themes: (1) developments in the 111th Congress; and (2) new resources for teaching about Congress. The workshop consists of two types of sessions: those that focus on recent research and scholarship about Congress (and don't always have an immediate application in the classroom) and those geared to specific ways to teach students about the federal legislature.

Throughout the program, teachers will work with subject matter experts as well as colleagues from across the nation. This combination of firsthand knowledge and peer-to-peer interaction will give teachers new ideas, materials, and a professionally enriching experience.

The program is certified by the Illinois State Board of Education for up to 22 Continuing Education Units. The program also is endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies. Participants are responsible for (1) a non-refundable \$155 registration fee (required to confirm acceptance after notice of selection); and (2) transportation to and from Peoria, Illinois. Many school districts will pay all or a portion of these costs. The Center pays for three nights lodging at the headquarters hotel (providing a single room for each participant), workshop materials, local transportation, all but three meals, and presenter honoraria and expenses. Visit http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_programs_CongressClassroom.htm for information and online registration.

Other resources highlighted in this month's Communicator from the Dirksen Center include:

- **People Who Served In Congress** Sketches of famous and not-so-famous Senators and Representatives like:
 - Robert C. Byrd (D-WV). <http://byrd.senate.gov/>
 - African-Americans in Congress: Black Americans in Congress at: http://baic.house.gov/member_profiles/profile.html?intID=3 Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=D000208>
 - Women in Congress: Women in Congress at <http://womenincongress.house.gov/> Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=K000002>
- **Congress Defined** Words and phrases that describe congressional processes. This month's term is Pocket Veto. Source: <http://www.c-span.org/guide/congress/glossary/alphalist.htm>
- **New Lesson Plan *Introducing The Freshman Class Of The 111th Congress*** In this lesson, students become aware of certain characteristics (i.e., ethnicity, age, gender, and political party affiliation) of the 65 freshman members of the 111th House of Representatives (2009-2010) and determine if these new members are representative of the public as a whole. Students will gain an understanding of the sociopolitical and sociological nature of Congress, an important aspect of "representation" and related to the unit What Every Student Should Know about Congress. Find *Introducing the Freshman Class of the 111th Congress* at http://www.congresslink.org/print_lp_freshclass_111th.htm.
- **New Webquest: *Leading the 111th Congress*** Students take the part of a free-lance writer who has been commissioned by a national monthly magazine to report on the leaders of the 111th Congress. The writer's "angle" is: what qualities or shared experiences do these leaders have, and how will these factors shape their approach to leadership in Congress? Find WebQuest: *Leading the 111th Congress* at: http://www.congresslink.org/print_teaching_webquests_leading111th.htm
- **New Project: *Abraham Lincoln And The Illinois Congressional District*** As part of the Bicentennial Celebration of Abraham Lincoln, the Dirksen Congressional Center is pleased to present a version of the Lincoln legacy through the eyes of two members of Congress, Everett McKinley Dirksen and Robert H. Michel, who later represented the central Illinois congressional district that once sent Lincoln to the House of Representatives. Find *Abraham Lincoln and the Illinois Congressional District* at:

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- <http://www.dirksencenterprojects.org/#abraham>
- **New Editorial Cartoons** The Dirksen Congressional Center recently announced the completion of the Editorial Cartoon Collection project: <http://www.congresslink.org/cartoons/index.htm>. The editorial cartoons and related lesson plans from The Dirksen Center will teach students to identify issues, analyze symbols, acknowledge the need for background knowledge, recognize stereotypes and caricatures, think critically, and appreciate the role of irony and humor. We now have a total of 64 cartoons posted!
- **Internet Research Project Idea** Ask students to gather data about their senators and representatives (e.g., committee assignments, subcommittee assignments, lengths of time in office, and major bills sponsored). Have them refer to the websites posted on AboutGovernment http://www.aboutgovernment.org/print_uscongress.htm
- **State Of The Union Multiple-Choice & Trivia Practice** makes perfect! See how many multiple-choice questions you can get correct. Take the *State of the Union Trivia Quiz* at: http://www.congressforkids.net/games/execbranch_job1/1_presjob_1.htm

Earth & Sky stargazing site with podcasts and blogs <http://www.earthsky.org/skywatching>

eTHEMES

Ancient Civilizations: Mesopotamia Explore the ancient civilization of the Mesopotamia. Read about their writing system, counting, math system, medicine, and more. See the art, culture, and history of this ancient civilization as well as the Assyrians from Northern Mesopotamia. Included is an interactive website about the temples of Sumer, Babylon and Assyria. Read an overview about the gods and goddesses of ancient Sumer. See beautiful pictures of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. There is also a site that explains Hammurabi's Code and gives students sample situations to solve using the code. Includes lesson plans, virtual Mesopotamia, maps, and classroom activities. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001307.shtml>

Animals: Horses Learn about different horse breeds and how to properly groom and feed a horse. There are videos, many photographs, online games, coloring pages, and more. Includes an eThemes resource on paint horses and one on zebras. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000809.shtml>

Animals: Marsupials These sites focus on marsupials and characteristics that make them unique. Learn about the characteristics, habitat, food, and life cycle of marsupials. Includes videos, photos, printouts, and articles. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Mammals, Kangaroos, Koalas, Opossums, and Wombats. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002425.shtml>

Animals: Polar Bears These sites include many facts about polar bears, including their diet, behavior, and habitat. Watch short movies about polar bears, listen to audio files of their ferocious roars, and see live footage of polar bears in a zoo. Includes some suggested classroom activities relating to polar bears, lesson plans, and an eTheme on tundras. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000568.shtml>

Animals: Raptors These sites have information about various raptors, including Screech Owls, Great Horned Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles. Many sites contain audio and video clips, plus a Webcam. Includes links to eThemes Resources on barn owls and spotted owls. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000442.shtml>

Animals: Spotted Owls These sites have information about spotted owls and their habitat in old-growth forests. Learn about the controversy between environmental groups that want to protect the owls and the logging industry that wants to protect jobs. There are links to eThemes Resources on barn owls and raptors. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000816.shtml>

Author Study: Jane Austen These sites are about the author Jane Austen. There is biographical and historical information as well as lesson plans for teaching her novels, including "Pride and Prejudice," "Emma," "Persuasion," and "Sense and Sensibility." <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002410.shtml>

Author Study: Karma Wilson These sites are about Karma Wilson, a children book's author. Learn about the author's life and works. Includes lesson plans, activities, songs, and poems to go along with the books, as well as an

eTHEMES, cont'd.

interview transcript, photos, and FAQs related to the author. There is also an interview with Jane Chapman, the illustrator of Wilson's bear books. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002448.shtml>

Author Study: Paulette Bourgeois These sites are about the author Paulette Bourgeois who wrote the book series "Franklin the Turtle." Learn about the author's life and her work. Includes lesson plans, classroom activities, craft ideas, and interactive games to go along with the book series. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on sea turtles. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002414.shtml>

Career Cluster: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Learn what careers are available in the agriculture, food, and natural resources career cluster. Find out what kind of education you would need, how much the various occupations pay, and what working conditions are like. There are films, diaries, lesson plans, information from people on the jobs, and more. Includes links to eThemes on career exploration and career interest assessments. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001691.shtml>

Country: Ecuador Learn about Ecuador and its geography, history, people, government, and more. Read about the Amazon rainforest and the Andes Mountains. Also learn about the famous Galapagos Islands. Includes maps and many photographs. There are links to eThemes Resources on South America, ancient civilizations, rainforests, and the Galapagos Island sea turtles. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001248.shtml>

Country: Tibet These sites are about Tibet. Learn about Tibet's geography, Buddhism, culture, food, and history. View photographs of Tibet people and places. Includes interactive maps, timelines, movie clips, and a lesson plan. There is also a topic about the 14th Dalai Lama, an influential person in Tibet. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on China. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002421.shtml>

Emotions These sites have interactive resources on emotions and feelings. Learn about different emotions and how facial expressions as well as gestures convey different emotions. Includes games, lesson plans, video clips, and printouts. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on Physiological Impact of Positive Emotions. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002423.shtml>

Geography: Human Characteristics of a Place These sites are about human characteristics of a place, specifically the area around St. Louis and the Missouri River. Find out about the population, architecture, economics, transportation network, and more. Included is an eThemes resource on the five themes of geography. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002373.shtml>

Geography: United States These sites are about America's 50 states. Play various games and quizzes and try to recognize the shape of the states. Includes labeled and unlabeled maps. There are links to eThemes Resources on the different regions of America. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000369.shtml>

Health: Metabolism These sites are about metabolism and the process of metabolism. Learn about metabolism, factors that affect metabolic rate, converting food intake into energy, and staying balanced. Includes lesson plans, interactive materials, and a physical activity calorie-use chart. There are also links to eThemes Resources on diet and nutrition, and obesity. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002409.shtml>

History's Mysteries These are websites about some of the most famous and puzzling enigmas in history. Who built Stonehenge and why? How were giant stone heads built on Easter Island? Was there ever a lost city of Atlantis? Here you will find out about these riddles and more, including the Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, and the Bermuda Triangle. You can not only discover the tools necessary to investigate these mysteries, but also puzzles, quizzes, and videos. Included are eThemes resources on the Egyptian pyramids and the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001832.shtml>

Literature: "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl These sites have suggested activities for the book, plus many interactive games and quizzes. View photos, listen to sound files, and read song lyrics from the movie based on the book. Also has links to eThemes resources on Chocolate, Character Education, Inventions, and author Roald Dahl. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000545.shtml>

eTHEMES, cont'd.

Literature: "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes These sites contain resources for teaching the novel "Don Quixote" by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes. There are lesson plans, biographical information, historical background, and more. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002422.shtml>

Literature: "Mountain Born" by Elizabeth Yates Here are web resources to use with the book "Mountain Born" by Elizabeth Yates. There is information about the author, sheep and shepherds, wool, wolves, growing up, and maturing. Learn how wool is made into yarn, what it means to be responsible, and how it feels to lose a pet. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002363.shtml>

Literature: "Ruby Holler" by Sharon Creech These sites are about the book "Ruby Holler" by Sharon Creech. Learn about the author's life and works. Includes interview transcripts and activities ideas. There are also literature circle guides, discussion questions, classroom activities, and an audio excerpt. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002420.shtml>

Literature: "The Enormous Egg" by Oliver Butterworth These websites are about the book "The Enormous Egg" by Oliver Butterworth. Includes activity ideas and a quiz to go along with the book. There is also a hands-on experiment about egg hatching. Includes eThemes Resources on dinosaurs and fossils. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002419.shtml>

Music: Bluegrass Music These sites are about bluegrass music. Learn about its history and culture, find out what kinds of instruments are used, see video performances, listen to audio recordings, and more. Includes instructions for making model bluegrass instruments. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002417.shtml>

Music: Classical Music These sites are about classical music. Learn what classical music is as well as the characteristics and the styles of the music. There are several interactive sites that students can listen to major pieces of classical music from different time periods. Includes major composers and their works, a timeline of classical music, lesson plans, games, and more. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Famous People: Composers and Music: Instruments. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002439.shtml>

Physiological Impact of Positive Emotions Find out how positive and negative emotions affect the human brain. Learn how people can use positive emotions to improve memory, relax, finding a right answer in difficult situations, and much more. Discover how the brain works and learn how biofeedback stress-management tools can help kids and adults improve their everyday performance. Includes a description of biofeedback games, images, and schematic drawings of human brain. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on emotions. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001628.shtml>

Revolutionary War: Battle of Bunker Hill These sites are about the Battle of Bunker Hill, one of the first major battles of the American Revolution. Learn how the battle was fought and why it was important. There are maps, pictures, primary source documents, videos, and more. Also included are two eThemes resources on the Revolutionary War. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002408.shtml>

Solar System: Pluto the Dwarf Planet Learn about Pluto, the dwarf planet. Read how this dwarf planet was formed, its geological formation, and planned missions to Pluto. Students and teachers can read articles on Pluto's demotion to dwarf planet. Includes many photographs and three related eThemes resources. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001235.shtml>

Space: Supernova Learn about the gigantic explosions in the universe that are produced by dying stars and cause new star formations. Find out how scientists are trying to predict supernova and how they group supernova. These sites include images, schematic drawings, audio, movies, and animated simulations. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001314.shtml>

Symbiosis These sites are about symbiosis. Learn about different types of ecological relationship including mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism. There are definitions and examples of each symbiosis. Includes video clips, quizzes, and lesson plans. There are also links to eThemes Resources on An Overview of Ecosystems, Food Chains and Webs, and Organisms: Producers, Consumers, Decomposers. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002429.shtml>

eTHEMES, cont'd.

Teaching Tips: iPods in Education These sites focus on integrating iPods in elementary education. Find many possibilities of using iPods in education and learn how teachers incorporate iPods into regular and special education classrooms. Includes lesson plans and video clips. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Podcasting: Educational Examples and Technology: Audios for Podcasting.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002430.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Moodle These web resources are about using Moodle, an open source learning management software. There are articles, tutorials, examples, and video segments. Learn how to get started integrating Moodle into the classroom. You can create lesson plans, quizzes, surveys, and more.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002406.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Technology Inventory Assessments These sites compile instruments for assessing teachers' use of technology in many areas of educational technology including technology integration, attitude towards computer and information technology, technology adoption, and technology competencies. The instruments are available in web-based, PDF file, and Word document formats. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002431.shtml>

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire These websites contain information about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, its causes, and aftermath. You can view primary source documents, hear oral histories from survivors, read contemporary newspaper accounts, and more. There is additional information about immigrant life in New York and working conditions. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002416.shtml>

World War II: Battles in World War II These sites focus on major battle events in World War II including the Pacific War, the Battle of Midway, Pearl harbor, and the Battle of Guadalcanal. Learn about World War II from the vantage points of both the Japanese and the Americans. Includes animations, interactive battle maps, timelines, first-hand accounts, interviews, photos, and audio clips. There are also links to eThemes Resources on World War II for Upper Grades, World War II: Guadalcanal, and Pearl Harbor. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002424.shtml>

Writing: Biographies These sites offer tips for writing biographies. There are lesson plans, helpful handouts, rubrics, an online tutorial, and examples of biographies written by elementary students. Also includes a video on writing process. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000832.shtml>

Writing: Personification These sites explain how to use personification to improve your writing. Includes definitions, numerous examples, and classroom activity ideas. There are also links to three eThemes Resources on other types of figurative language. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000562.shtml>