

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY10 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs

Grant recipients are reminded that the end-of-year Program Evaluation Narrative (PEN) and Final Expenditure Report (FER) are due June 30.

FY11 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs – Preliminary budget information (reminder)

Proposed State and Federal ed-tech funding

At the state level, the proposed budget for next school year only includes capacity to operate the federal Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) Program. With regards to federal funding, the FY10 Consolidated Appropriations Act will fund the Title II.D program at \$100 million (representing a nearly two-thirds decrease).

- **FY11 Title II.D EETT Program**
The 2010-11 Missouri program will be 100% competitive. Since the estimated appropriation is sufficient to grant continuation grants only, there was no call for new first-year applications.

While there won't be new formula funding for 2010-11, districts having remaining FY10 funds after June 30, 2010, should budget these carryover funds in their 2010-11 NCLB Consolidated applications.

- **FY12 Proposed Ed-tech Funding**
The Obama Administration's FY11 education budget request – funding that would be distributed to states and schools in 2011-12 – consolidates 38 education programs into 11 new program areas, with much of the funding awarded through competitive grants. If approved, the Title II.D EETT program would not be funded.

Meanwhile, the White House released the statement *A New Foundation for 21st Century Learning: Education Technology Investments in the 2011 Budget* that emphasizes commitment to educational technology. According to this document, "The President strongly believes that technology, when used creatively and effectively, can transform education..." It makes a broad array of Department of Education programs, including the \$500 million "Investing in Innovation" Fund, eligible for technology-related investments; encourages the infusion of educational technology across a broad range of programs in order to improve teaching and learning; and plans to build capacity at the state and local level to

- Pew Research Center releases report on teens' use of mobile phones
- CDW-G, T.H.E. Journal release first of a 4-part series of Key Ed Tech Issues
- CoSN releases 2010 K-12 Horizon Report
- SREB releases report about online/open content
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e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Update

- e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Online professional Development for Missouri educators

eMINTS Update

- eMINTS offers Cognitive Coaching seminars
- eMINTS events on the website

support better uses of technology for efficient and effective transfer of knowledge. See:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/edtech%20final.pdf>

FY11 Safe Schools Program – Preliminary budget information (reminder)

While the program was included in early budgets proposed by the Governor and General Assembly, it is unlikely the program will be funded because of the continuing state budget crisis. However, since the House and Senate have not completed budget bills, Instructional Technology requested contacts for grants in their second and third year submit some preliminary application information [for year three or year four funding] by April 30. Should the program receive funding for FY11, DESE Instructional Technology will work with those eligible districts in completing and approving their applications.

Census of Technology

Because of a technical problem, data entry for the 2010 Census of Technology (Core Data Screens 30 and 31) – scheduled to end April 15 – will remain open through May.

The problem concerned Screen 31, the first Technology Usage item. Instructional Technology submitted a change request to address the new MOREnet online resources Gale and Learning Express Library. While the screen appeared correct, there was problem with the data not being saved properly. The problem was corrected in late April, and districts are encouraged to reenter their data.

[Instructional Technology apologizes for the inconvenience.] For more information about COT, see: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>.

Technology Network Program (TNP) to soon release new fee schedule for FY11

<http://www.more.net/content/k-12-technology-network-program>

As noted in previous newsletters, the MOREnet core budget item has received a series of reductions for FY10, with the FY11 funding outlook following a similar course. MOREnet and DESE staffs analyzed various strategies for dealing with the decreased funding, while also trying to keep member fees at a reasonable price for districts that are also suffering budget cuts. Proposed fee structures were presented to the MOREnet Council in mid-March and, again, in late-April. TNP members can expect correspondence soon from MOREnet regarding the new structure.

DESE announces free access to Google SketchUp Pro 7 software – New!

The Department recently received a grant from Google to offer statewide K-12 licensing access to its SketchUp Pro 7 software. Missouri public school educators interested in using this software can request a copy of the download instructions by clicking on the link below and completing the online survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MissouriGoogleSketchUpPro>.

Please allow 10 days for the email response. For other information, contact Doug Miller, with DESE Technology & Engineering Programs, via email at w.doug.miller@dese.mo.gov or by telephone at (573) 751-7764.

Regular Featured Items

- Upcoming Conferences
- Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities
- Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects
- Learning Opportunities
- From the Vendors
- From the Mailbag
- Newest eTHEMES

[Index by Topics](#)
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STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS**DESE posts new Information and Communications Technology Literacy standards**

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/GLE/index.html>

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Literacy Grade-Level and Course-Level Expectations documents began as an update of the former Information Literacy strand of GLEs and CLEs. The K-8 GLE and the 9-12 CLE documents result from a collaboration between the DESE Curriculum and Assessment, School Support Services, and Instructional Technology sections and Missouri educators from across the state. Educators represented primary grades through university, and included classroom teachers, media specialists, directors of technology, and professors in related areas.

The committee met numerous times to carefully examine the current information literacy standards, as well as current research in the areas of information, communications technology, and media literacy. Early in the work it became apparent that the knowledge and skills required for proficiency in this area are not limited to one content area. Further, several factors influenced the proposal to elevate this area to a separate content area, such as the marked increase in the influence of technology in the lives of students and the world of work, growing demands for an awareness of the utility – and the risks – of various uses of technology, and the relevance of this content to all areas of study, rather than the one area of Communication Arts.

The new Missouri ICT Literacy standards are organized around the following strands and concepts:

1. **Follow an inquiry process to construct new understandings, draw conclusions, and create new knowledge:** Process Components and Process Approach
2. **Determine nature and intent of information needed:** Purpose and Audience and Focus Questions/Keywords
3. **Access information efficiently and effectively:** Source Selection and Source Navigation
4. **Evaluate information critically and competently:** Message, Relevance, Reliability, and Comprehensiveness
5. **Use information effectively and creatively:** Information Recording, Information Synthesis, and Information Presentation
6. **Practice ethical, legal, and safe use of information and technology:** Digital Citizenship, Academic Honesty, and Cyber Safety

eMINTS, Hancock Place Middle School cited in 2010 National Educational Technology Trends Study

<http://www.setda.org/web/guest/2010NationalTrends>

In April, the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) released its annual National Educational Technology Trends Report, sharing new data on the increasingly important role that technology is playing in K-12 school improvement efforts in local communities in each of the 50 states. The report is based on an annual survey detailing states' implementations of the Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) program. The 2010 Trends report covers the 2008-09 school year, the seventh year of EETT funding.

Missouri's eMINTS program is cited in Trend 1, Scaling Up Success, as an example of a "highly successful program" replicated in other states, noting the new Delaware eMINTS program. The Hancock Place grant implementation is cited in the Competitive Grant Program section as an example of grant project that is "focused on increasing student achievement."

The 34-page national report summarizes the EETT program implemented across all 50 states and the District of Columbia and notes emerging trends in how national investments in educational technology are making systemic improvements in teaching and learning. Also available are individual state profiles that summarize how each state implements EETT and include additional examples of model projects. The Missouri report also highlights projects in the Monett and North Harrison school districts. To see the Missouri report, visit: www.setda.org/web/guest/statemembers.

State and National News, cont'd.**Park Hill School District featured in "Key Ed Tech Issues: Part 1"**

http://thejournal.com/pages/cdwg/security.aspx?pc=e076em01&utm_source=webmktg&utm_medium=em&utm_campaign=e076em01

CDW-G and its partners, in association with *T.H.E Journal*, released the first in a four-part series that examines key issues of technology within education. Part 1, *A Holistic Look at Security*, features the Park Hill School District and how it tackles security threats and challenges to deliver significant improvements in safety.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES**SETDA releases 2010 National Educational Technology Trends Study**

<http://www.setda.org/web/guest/2010NationalTrends>

SETDA (State Educational Technology Directors Association) recently released its 2010 report, *Innovation through State Leadership, National Educational Technology Trends*. The comprehensive seventh annual report focuses on ESEA, Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) program during school-year 2008-09 and lays out the latest in educational technology by compiling data collected from all 50 states and the Department of Education.

Five key trends are outlined, including:

1. **Scaling Up Success.** States continued to provide educational technology leadership by focusing EETT investments on student-centric, research-based, technology-rich learning environments that advance state and federal goals.
2. **Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness.** For the seventh year in a row, states reported offering a wide range of professional development – including coaching and mentoring – as a key leverage point for extracting a learning return on their EETT technology investments.
3. **Using Data to Inform Learning, Teaching, and Leadership.** EETT investments are increasing the capacity of educators to access, analyze, and use data effectively to inform learning, teaching, and leadership.
4. **Increasing Academic Achievement.** EETT investments continue to focus on technology-enhanced teaching and learning innovations that demonstrate positive gains in the core academic areas. (The report notes that teachers impacted by significant professional development – at least 49 hours – improve students' academic achievement scores by 21 percentile points.)
5. **Driving Innovation and New Educational Models.** Educators are taking advantage of EETT investments in Web 2.0, interactive technologies, and broadband, by embracing technology-enhanced learning strategies that include online learning, use of open and digital content, and web-based professional communities of practice.

The 34-page national report is available online at <http://www.setda.org/>. Individual state profiles for every state, including examples from many local communities across the country, can be accessed online from <http://www.setda.org/web/guest/statemembers>.

NCES releases "Educational Technology in U.S. Public Schools: Fall 2008"

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010034>

This First Look report presents data from a fall 2008 Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) survey of public schools on the availability and use of educational technology: computer hardware and Internet access, availability of staff to help integrate technology into instruction and provide timely technical support, and perceptions of educational technology issues at the school and district level. The report follows a series of school level surveys dating back to 1994. The 2008 surveys also included one conducted at the district level and another asked of teachers.

Findings from the survey of schools include:

- An estimated 100 percent of public schools had one or more instructional computers with Internet access.
- The ratio of students to instructional computers with Internet access was 3.1 to 1.
- 97 percent had one or more instructional computers located in classrooms and 58 percent of schools had laptops on carts.
- Public schools used their district network or the Internet to provide standardized assessment results and data for

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

teachers to individualize instruction (87 percent), data to inform instructional planning at the school (85 percent), online student assessment (72 percent), and high-quality digital content (65 percent).

- Nine out of 10 schools reported that it takes 8 hours or less to get network services restored when the network goes down (22 percent reported less than 1 hour and 68 percent reported 1 to 8 hours), 51 percent reported that it takes 1 to 8 hours to receive assistance with software problems or questions, and 45 percent reported that it takes 2 to 5 days to get a computer repaired.

Pew Research Center releases report on teens' use of mobile phones

<http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP-Teens-and-Mobile-2010.pdf>

To understand the role that cell phones play in teens' lives, the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project and the University of Michigan's Department of Communication Studies conducted a survey and focus groups, including 800 youth, ages 12-17, in the latter part of 2009. The report, "Teens and Mobile Phones: Text messaging explodes as teens embrace it as the centerpiece of their communication strategies with friends," highlights the rapid rise of text messaging in recent months. Some 72% of all U.S. teens are now text message users, with the typical texter sending and receiving 50 texts a day, or 1,500 per month. While a small number of children get a cell phone in elementary school, the real tipping point for ownership is in middle school. About six in ten (66%) of all children in the sample had a cell phone before they turned 14. Slightly less than 75% of all high school students had a cell phone.

CDW-G, T.H.E. Journal release first of a 4-part series of Key Ed Tech Issues

http://thejournal.com/pages/cdwg/security.aspx?pc=e076em01&utm_source=webmktg&utm_medium=em&utm_campaign=e076em01

CDW-G and its partners, in association with *T.H.E. Journal*, released the first in a four-part series that examines key issues of technology within education. A report will be released each quarter, providing an in-depth look at best practices from school districts that are leaders in an area crucial to success in today's schools. The four key issues include security, networks and data centers, 21st century classrooms, and one-to-one computing. Part 1, [A Holistic Look at Security](#), takes a comprehensive look at security, providing solid examples from leading districts in the nation. The Park Hill School District (MO) and Katy Independent School District (TX) districts share how they tackled their greatest security threats and challenges to deliver significant improvements in safety.

Visit the online resource center to gain insight into: award-winning processes, no-nonsense procedures, continuous improvement initiatives, tips on building a business case for physical security, and utilization of social networking to move beyond phone-based emergency notification.

CoSN releases 2010 K-12 Horizon Report

<http://www.cosn.org/Horizon/>

Which technologies will have a positive impact on K-12 education in the next five years? The *2010 Horizon Report: K-12 Edition*, released in April by the New Media Consortium and the Consortium for School Networking and funded by a grant from Hewlett-Packard, includes six key technology areas, including cloud computing and game-based learning. The report also lists five "critical challenges" for schools in utilizing these technologies, such as insufficient teacher training and the inability of educational institutions to adapt to more informal, online, and home-based learning.

Also released is the companion *2010 Horizon Report: K-12 Edition Toolkit*, designed to foster a dialogue at educational institutions about how emerging technologies can improve learning in K-12 education. The free *Toolkit* contains a presentation template on each of the six technologies and a facilitator's guide that provides guiding questions to stimulate group thinking about the *Report* and new technologies.

Visit the online resource center to gain insight into: award-winning processes, no-nonsense procedures, continuous improvement initiatives, tips on building a business case for physical security, and utilization of social networking to move beyond phone-based emergency notification.

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.**SREB releases report about online/open content**

http://publications.sreb.org/2010/10T02_Guidelines_Eff_Pol.pdf

To realize the educational impact from the substantial investments Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states are making in digital content, the SREB report *An Expectation of Sharing: Guidelines for Effective Policies to Respect, Protect and Increase the Use of Digital Resources* recommends that electronic educational resources created with public funding be licensed to provide as high a level of potential for sharing as possible, both within and outside the state. The guidelines are intended for state-level administrators and policy-makers (as funders of digital educational resource development) to help them establish policies, practices, statues and regulations, if needed, that increase the sharing of, and maximize returns on, their state's investment in digital education resources.

Executives say the 21st century requires more skilled workers

<http://www.p21.org/documents/Critical%20Skills%20Survey%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

The American Management Association (AMA), in conjunction with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21), released findings from a March 2010 survey of 2,115 managers and other executives in AMA member and customer companies about the importance of critical skills. As the U.S. economy begins to show signs of improvement, executives say they need a workforce fully equipped with skills beyond just the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic (the three Rs) in order to grow their businesses. Proficiency in reading, writing and arithmetic is not sufficient if workers are not also equipped with critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation skills (the four Cs).

According to the survey results, executives said these skills and competencies have been articulated within their organizations as priorities for employee development, talent management and succession planning. They agreed that their employees are measured in communication skills (80.4%), critical thinking (72.4%), collaboration (71.2%), and creativity (57.3%) during annual performance appraisals, and job applicants are assessed in these areas during the hiring process. Three out of four (75.7%) executives said that they believe these skills and competencies will become more important to their organizations in the next three to five years, particularly as the economy improves and organizations look to grow.

The AMA survey also shows managers and executives believe it is easier to develop these skills in students (58.6%) than it is to develop them in experienced workers (28.8%), suggesting that students and recent graduates may be more open to new ideas, versus experienced workers with established work patterns and habits; 80% of executives believe that fusing the three Rs and four Cs would ensure students are better prepared to enter the workforce.

E-RATE PROGRAM**FY2009 Funding commitments**

USAC released FY2009 **Wave 50** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) **May 3**. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 80% and above and denials at 69% and below. As of April 30, FY2009 commitments totaled \$2.68 billion.

Use USAC's Automated Search of Commitments (ASC) tool to search for funding commitment information by funding year (FY), wave number, state, and/or applicant name. See: <http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/search-tools/search-commitments/>.

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC) 2010: Winning at Instructional Technology

Join us for the 2010 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference to experience the latest in cutting-edge technology, hands-on sessions, keynote presentations and exhibitors showcasing the latest information technology tools and solutions.

MOREnet Update, cont'd.**THEME:** Winning at Instructional Technology**WHEN:** October 3-5, 2010**WHERE:** Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, Missouri

Call for Presentations is now open To submit an online presentation proposal go to <http://www.more.net/content/mitc-call-presentations>.

Presentation Topics/Tags: 21st Century Learning, Administration, ARRA (the stimulus), Assessment, Authoring Tools, Blended, Learning, Blogs, Collaboration, Community, Convergence, Course Management, Critical Thinking, Digital Media, Distance Learning, Educational Content, eLearning, ePeGs, Funding, Grants, Interactive Learning, Leadership, Multimedia Content, Network Management, Networking, Online Resources, Podcasting, Policy, Security, Social Networking, Student Management Systems, Technology Integration, Videoconferencing, Virtual Field Trips, Virtual Learning Environment, Virtual Worlds, Web 2.0, Web 2.0 Policy, Web 2.0 Security, Wiki.

All presenters are expected to register for the conference. Only the main presenter will receive a complimentary registration for the conference, October 3-5, 2010. Additional presenters must register at the Early Bird fee or the regular conference fee.

Registration Information:

Early Bird - July 12 to Aug. 29 (Member: \$275; Non-Member: \$375)

Standard - Aug. 30 to Sept. 22 (Member: \$325; Non-Member: \$425)

Pre-Conference (Member: \$85; Non-Member: \$170)

For registration updates, visit the MITC website <http://www.more.net/content/registration-information>. If you have additional questions, please contact MOREnet at conferences@more.net or (573) 882-0289.

2010 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference*Save the Date: MOREnet's Instructional Technology Conference*

Sometimes winning is everything. When it comes to students and their academic futures winning is why we show up! We want to win over students and capture their drive to learn; we want to win over administrators and show them the value of implementing technology at your school. At MITC 2010 you will find answers and ideas to help you adopt, improve and get your voices heard when it comes to the use of technology in your classrooms. MITC 2010: *Winning at Instructional Technology* will be held Oct. 3-5 in Osage Beach at Tan-Tar-A. Join us for all three days of presentations, discussions and networking as we continue to explore the evolution of IT in education.

For more information visit <http://www.more.net/content/mitc>.

2010 MITC Student Technology Exhibits

MOREnet is accepting proposals for student technology exhibits as part of the 2010 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC) October 3-5, 2010, at Tan-Tar-A. If your students have participated in a technology-related project, we would like to feature them in our 2010 Student Technology Showcase!

If your students are selected to present, they will be featured in the MITC conference program. They will also have the opportunity to present their projects during the conference to teachers from all over Missouri. Students from all grade levels are welcome and encouraged to participate.

To submit a participation proposal, simply call or e-mail MOREnet with a description of your students' projects including what technology was used in the project by May 28, 2010. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with others from around the state, and to display what they're doing with technology!

For more information, or to submit a proposal, contact Sandra Monnig at conferences@more.net or at 573-882-0289.

MoDLA UPDATE

2010 The Future Is Now: *Taking the Next Step in 21st-Century Learning*

The MoDLA conference attracts attendees interested in all aspects distance learning from K-12 schools, higher education institutions, non-profit organizations, state government agencies, the military and private industry. As a presenter, you'll assist in creating an innovative and informative conference and learn about the latest trends in distance learning.

- 2010 Keynote Speakers
- Location: University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center
- City: Springfield
- Dates: July 22-23, 2010
- [Registration](#)
- 2010 Keynote Speakers
 - Ray Schroeder** – Professor Emeritus and Director of the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service University of Illinois at Springfield

e-LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS: MISSOURI UPDATE

submitted by Christie Terry

e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Online professional Development for Missouri educators

e-Learning for Educators: Missouri is a program for developing and delivering high-quality online professional development designed to increase teacher knowledge and skills to improve student performance. Experienced Missouri educators facilitate and develop online professional development courses for teachers.

Registration for summer semester opens April 14, 2010
Summer courses begin June 16 and run until August 3, 2010.

Register online at <http://www.elearningmo.org>

Courses Cost: \$125.00/course

Optional Graduate Credit: \$100/credit hour from UMKC, UMSL and MSU

Summer 2010 courses include

- Personal Finance *FREE
- Algebraic Thinking in Elementary School
- Best Practices for Vocabulary Instruction in the Elementary Classroom
- Best Practices for Vocabulary Instruction in the Middle School Classroom
- Classroom Management *NEW
- Differentiating Instruction: Empowering All Learners
- Digital Storytelling *NEW
- Geometric Measurement
- Getting Started in the School Library Profession
- Information, Communications Technology, and Media Literacy: The new GLEs and CLEs
- K-12 Course Design
- Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: An Introduction for Administrators (*University of Missouri – Columbia graduate credit only)
- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Elementary Classroom
- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Middle School Classroom
- Proportional Reasoning
- Rethinking Lesson Planning Using Backward Design
- Teaching Electricity and Circuits Through Inquiry
- Teaching Writing in the Elementary Classroom
- Teaching Writing in the Middle School Classroom
- The Complexities of Measurement

e-Learning For Educators: Missouri Update, cont'd.

- Using Models to Understand Fractions
- Using Observable Phenomena to Make Sense of the Earth, Moon and Sun
- Using Technology in the Elementary Math Classroom
- Using WebQuests *NEW
- Water 9-1-1: Inquiry in the Science Classroom

Contact e-Learning for EducatorsWeb – <http://www.elearningmo.org>E-mail – elearning@missouri.edu

Phone – (573) 884-4233

eMINTS UPDATE*submitted by Monica Beglau***eMINTS offers Cognitive Coaching seminars**

Ever wish you could communicate more effectively with the people you supervise, work with or train? Do you find it challenging to help people solve complicated problems they are facing or to change how they are teaching or working with others?

The eMINTS National Center is pleased to offer an eight-day professional development opportunity for instructional coaches, administrators, teachers, mentors, professors, supervisors, eMINTS PD4ETS program participants, certified Educational Technology Specialists and anyone who wants to encourage self-directedness of others.

Find more information and register for the seminars – <http://www.emints.org/events/cognitivecoaching>.

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>.

Contact eMINTSWeb – <http://www.emints.org> E-mail – emints-info@emints.org Phone – (573) 884-7202**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

2010	Conference
July 22 – 23	MoDLA Annual Meeting University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Springfield, MO http://www.modla.org/
October 3-5	MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC) 2010: Winning at Instructional Technology Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/content/mitc

GRANT FUNDING and CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date	Grant Program
2010 Opens for voting February 1	The Pepsi Refresh Project is hosting a grants program focusing on health, arts and culture, food and shelter, the planet, neighborhoods, and education. Each month in 2010, Pepsi will fund 32 projects, ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000. Proposals are being accepted as of January 13, and full details are available on the Pepsi Refresh Project website: http://www.refresheverything.com/ .

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

- February 1, June 1, and October 15 May 15** **NEA Learning and Leadership Grants**
<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/>
- Earth Island Institute: Youth Award for Outstanding Activism in Environmental and Social Justice** recognizes young people for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and social justice advocacy. Maximum award: \$3,000; a trip to San Francisco for the awards ceremony, October 19, 2010; and a wilderness camping trip. Eligibility: youth activists ages 13-22.
<http://www.broweryouthawards.org/article.php?list=type&type=54>
- May 15** **2010 Aetna Foundation Grants Program** focuses on issues that improve health and the health care system in the following three areas: Obesity: Racial and Ethnic Health Care Equity, and Integrated Health Care. <http://www.aetna.com/about-aetna-insurance/aetna-foundation/aetna-grants/grants-for-2010-and-beyond.html>
- May 21** **Leadership in Science Education Prize For High School Teachers** \$1,000 and a trip to the Shanghai International Forum on Science Literacy for an outstanding high school science teacher
http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs_scied_leadership/
- May 25** **Living In a Material World Grants** \$500 for K-12 teachers who propose projects that enhance student awareness of materials science
<http://asmcommunity.asminternational.org/portal/site/www/Foundation/Educators/TeacherGrants/>
- May 25** **The ASM Materials Education Foundation** 10 grants valued at \$500 each year for teachers to enhance awareness of materials science and the role of materials scientists in society.
<http://asmcommunity.asminternational.org/portal/site/www/Foundation/Educators/TeacherGrants/>
- May 26** **2010 TOYOTA INTERNATIONAL TEACHER PROGRAM** fully-funded, international, professional development opportunities for U.S. educators.
<http://www.toyota4education.com/pmwiki.php?n=Main.WelcomeToTheToyotaInternationalTeacherProgramWiki?from=Main.HomePage>
- May 27** **2010 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge** to encourage the exploration of science and innovation among middle school students
<http://www.youngscientistchallenge.com/about/about.html>
- May 28** **High School Student Scholarship Program** \$1,000 scholarships for high school students who write an essay about the effects of technology on education
<http://www.samsungscholarship.com/>
- May 28** **Samsung Techwin America** invites students across America to write an essay on the topic of technology as an investment in education.
<http://www.samsungscholarship.com/>
- June 1** **The NEA Foundation provides Student Achievement grants** to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area(s).
<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grant-application/student-achievement-grants/>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

- June 1** **NEA Learning Leadership grants** support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes: Grants to individuals fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research; or Grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment. <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/learning-and-leadership/>
- June 1** **SAMSUNG TECHWIN AMERICA Active Learning Grant Program** offers 50 SAMCAM 860 document cameras to worthy applicants based on need. <http://www.samsunggrants.com/>
- June 10** **The Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth** category National Endowment for the Arts offers funding for projects that help children and youth acquire knowledge and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engage students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art. Funded projects apply national or state arts education standards. <http://www.grantsalert.com/grants.cfm?id=4&gid=33438>
- June 14** **Nature of Learning Grants** to use National Wildlife Refuges as outdoor classrooms to promote a greater understanding of local conservation issues, utilize field experiences and student-led stewardship projects http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=charter_programs_list&CONTENTID=15106&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm
- June 30** **Apps for Healthy Kids** \$40,000 in prizes to create innovative, fun and engaging software tools and games that encourage children, especially “tweens” (ages 9-12), directly or through their parents to make more nutritious food choices and be more physically active. <http://www.appsforhealthykids.com/>
- May, August, November** **Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs** <http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants>
- June 1, October 15, February 1** **NEA Foundation Green Grants**
This year the program emphasizes “green” projects that involve students learning about and engaging in environmental preservation and protection. <http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm>
- June 10** **National Endowment for the Arts: Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth** <http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP11/LITA.html>
The NEA Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth program funds projects that help children and youth acquire appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of and skills in the arts. Projects must provide participatory learning and engagement of students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art, and ensure the application of national, state, or local arts education standards. Maximum award: \$150,000. Eligibility: school-based or community-based projects.
- August 1** **Toshiba America Foundation Classroom Innovators Grants**
(TAF) is supporting innovative projects designed by math and science teachers to make their own classrooms more exciting and successful for students. <http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

August 1	2011 ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award recognizes creative and committed teachers and administrators under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the lives of children. http://www.ascd.org/programs/Outstanding_Young_Educator_Award/OYEA_Information.aspx
August 15	Open Meadows Foundation Grants to Benefit Women and Girls Grants up to \$2,000 to projects that: are designed and implemented by women and girls; reflect the diversity of the community served by the project in both its leadership and organization; promote building community power; promote gender, racial, social, economic and/or environmental justice; and have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. http://www.openmeadows.org/
August 30	Project Learning Tree <i>Greenworks!</i> Pollinator Garden Grants to engage PLT educators and their students with their local community in "learning-by-doing" environmental projects. http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html
October 31	CVS Foundation CVS Caremark Community Grants targets public schools for children with disabilities that promote a greater level of inclusion in student activities and extracurricular programs. http://info.cvscaremark.com/community/our-impact/community-grants/public-schools
Email toyotateach@iie.org to be notified	Toyota International Teacher Program http://www.toyota4education.com/
Variety	Dollar General has a variety of grants to assist schools. http://www.dgliteracy.com/grant-program/
Deadline: None, but applications should be received at least one or two months prior to proposed start date.	Actuarial Foundation: Advancing Student Achievement Grants http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/for_teachers.shtml The Actuarial Foundation Advancing Student Achievement grant program brings together actuaries and educators in local classrooms with the belief that interaction with real-world mentors will boost student interest and achievement in math. The Actuarial Foundation can provide a local network of actuaries ready to participate, as well as suggestions on how to integrate math concepts from the workplace into the classroom. Schools applying for grants will be given wide latitude in designing programs that enhance learning and create a "love of math" in each student. Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: All schools willing to undertake a math-mentoring program involving local actuaries as volunteers are eligible. However, in order for a program to be viable, there must be a sufficient population of volunteer actuaries within easy traveling distance to make a regular program possible. Deadline: None, but applications should be received at least one or two months prior to proposed start date.
Ongoing	After School Advantage Program from GTECH http://www.gtech.com/about_gtech/after_school.asp
Ongoing	Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

- Ongoing** **The Coca-Cola Foundation Grants**
http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/application_guidelines.html
- Ongoing** **CHS Foundation Mini-grants**
 The CHS Foundation grants up to \$1,000 to innovative academic and leadership programs that strengthen student learning and enhance professional development. Examples include: leadership training opportunities, mentorship programs, professional development experiences and student fundraising efforts.
<http://www.chsfoundation.org/scholarshipprog.html#minigrants>
- Ongoing** **ING Foundation Educational Grants**
<http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm>
- Ongoing** **Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants**
http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
- Ongoing** **Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant**
<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>
- Ongoing** **Motorola Community Grants**
<http://www.symbol.com/category.php?category=736>
- Ongoing** **Motorola Foundation**
<http://www.motorola.com/giving>
- Ongoing** **NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants**
http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
- Ongoing** **NEA Learning & Leadership Grants**
<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/>
- Ongoing** **Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths**
http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html
- Ongoing** **RGK Foundation Education Grants**
<http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants>
- Ongoing** **Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants**
http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
- Ongoing** **State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants**
http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp
- Ongoing** **Teach@15 Award**
http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/teach_awards.htm
- Ongoing** **Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants**
<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

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

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://foundationcenter.org/>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

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

Converge online: Grant Secrets – <http://www.convergemag.com/>

The 2009-10 **Dell Funding Calendar**, published by Tech and Learning, can be found at <http://www.techlearning.com/article/21102>. Check it out for grant opportunities, grant writing ideas and strategy tips.

The 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>

Edu4U is a resource for people who want to enhance teaching and learning for all students with the power of technology. Find information, resources and fellow travelers to help achieve your educational goals. <http://en.community.dell.com/groups/edu4u/default.aspx>

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>.

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>.

Fundsnet Online Services: <http://www.fundsnet.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=6>
Computers & technology – <http://www.fundsnet.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=4>

Grant writing and funding resources are available at <http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.

The **grants.gov** site is a tremendous resource for educators. It is updated weekly and contains a comprehensive listing of federal grants for schools. <http://www.grants.gov>

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/>.

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.info/\(dscmdd45etdg1045xp0ljby0\)](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(dscmdd45etdg1045xp0ljby0)) 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**, part of **Eduscapes**. <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/topic94.htm>

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

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

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>.

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>

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

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

Top Grants You Might Not Know About <http://www.hotchalk.com/mydesk/index.php/editoria/116-grants-and-contests/346-hotchalk-grants-and-contests>

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/\(xzvsqo2g4qxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)

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

Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.

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

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/>

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/funding/FundingList.asp>

VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

RoundTrips <http://www.roundtrips.org>.

Contact RoundTrips at roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us, or (314) 773-6934.

New Links to New Learning from Cooperating School Districts

<http://www2.csd.org/newlinks/index.html>

Contact Rebecca Morrison at rmorrison@csd.org or (314) 692-1274, or read the New Links blog at <http://www.csdtchpd.wordpress.com>

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.

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>

Global Nomads Group creates education programs and media about global issues for youth using interactive technologies in the classroom, such as live videoconferencing and multi-media videos.

<http://www.gng.org/home.html>

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/eft/home2/00front.htm>
- **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/>

SMART Exchange Content Challenge

Do you have a great SMART Notebook™ lesson activity? Now you can share it on the SMART Exchange online community for a chance to win a variety of SMART products, including a SMART Interactive Classroom PE, valued at US\$7,700.

Videoconferences/Collaborative Projects, cont'd.

Submit your SMART Notebook lesson activities before May 31, 2010, to be eligible to win. Visit the contest page http://exchange.smarttech.com/contest.html?WT.ac=SECC_T&L%20_email_0310.

Remember to let your fellow teachers know about the SMART Exchange Content Challenge. The more lesson activities you and your colleagues submit, the better your school's chance of winning a prize from SMART.

SMART Exchange is an online destination where you can do the following:

- Discover over 30,000 high-quality, classroom ready digital resources
- Find lesson activities created and shared by teachers
- Search by curriculum, grade and subject
- Preview and download resources without registration

Start searching today – visit the SMART Exchange <http://exchange.smarttech.com/index.html>.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**Lindenwood University Hosts TV and Film Camp for High School Students**

This summer, high school students from all over are invited to participate in a week long media camp at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

Students will get hands on experience in all phases of film production—both in front of and behind the camera. On the television side, students will learn what it takes to assemble a LIVE newscast, and how to write and edit a video news package.

There are two sessions to choose from: June 14th – 18th or June 21st-25th.

For more information, **check out this camp flier** <http://www.gmlpstl.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Summer-Media-Camp-Poster1.jpg> and **news release** <http://www.gmlpstl.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Press-Release-for-Summer-Camp-2010.pdf>. To reserve a spot, contact Peter Carlos at 636-949-4513 or pccarlos@lindenwood.edu.

FROM THE VENDORS

Complete Curriculum <http://www.completecurriculum.com/> publishes distinctive K-12 digital texts and provides an engaging web-based instructional interface. By providing Supplemental Engaging Activities, Real-World application exercises, 21st Century Skills Development Activities and technology integration, Complete Curriculum offers an affordable, accessible, effective curriculum that allows educators to supplement or customize each daily lesson while satisfying the accelerating demands that today's ever-evolving learning environments place upon them and their students.

Simply stated, Complete Curriculum's publishing platform provides streamlined instruction, practice, reinforcement and testing of the educational material required in order for the student to meet today's rigorous academic standards, and acquire familiarity with the core 21st Century skills such as cooperation, collaboration and communication.

By blending academic, social and interpersonal skills development, Complete Curriculum texts afford teachers and parents the opportunity to effectively impact a student's ability to accelerate – in and out of the classroom.

Developed by a consortium of teachers, academics and editors, Complete Curriculum texts organize and present content that enables:

- **Parents** to actually participate in helping their child to study or complete their homework
- **Home-schoolers** to affordably ensure the curriculum they are teaching their children meets the required Grade Level Content Expectations
- **Beginning educators** to confidently engage their students and immediately produce on the first day of class.

From the Vendors, cont'd.

- **Experienced educators** to creatively adapt each lesson and text to their preferred teaching style and methods.

For more information, contact Alison Cancellari at alison@completecurriculum.com.

FROM THE MAILBAG

From The Scout Report To receive the Scout Report each week, visit <http://scout.wisc.edu/About/subscribe.php>

- **Click! Photography Changes Everything** <http://click.si.edu/Default.aspx> The Smithsonian's exhibition about photography entitled "Click!" is a very down-to-earth approach to thinking about photography. The goal of the exhibit is have well-known people, as well as Smithsonian visitors, tell their stories of how photography affects their lives. There are six themes in the exhibition: "Who We Are," "What We Do," "What We See," "Where We Go," "What We Want," and "What We Remember." Each theme has a short video introduction on the right side of the theme's homepage, and the "Where We Go" theme's video is about the Giant Pandas at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., which have so many fans that take their pictures, that those photographers are called the Pandarazzi. The "Where We Go" theme also has two great essays with photos about land use, "Photography Changes Our Experience and Understanding of Cities" and "Photography Changes Land Use and Planning." The "What We See" theme has over a dozen essays, one of which is called "Photography Changes Medical Diagnosis and Treatment" by an ophthalmic photographer.
- **Encyclopedia of Alabama** <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Home.jsp> Sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and Auburn University, the Encyclopedia of Alabama (EOA) is a veritable cornucopia of material about the Yellowhammer State. The EOA draws on the work of many trustworthy and learned authors, and as a statement of the homepage notes, "Alabama's problems are not glossed over, nor are its accomplishments and successes overlooked." Visitors who might not be familiar with the state in the least are encouraged to read historian Wayne Flynt's fine essay on Alabama featured on the homepage. After that, visitors can look over the entries alphabetically, or they can use of the thematic headings (such as "Peoples" and "Religion") to start their journey. The "Features" articles are a treat as well, and they include "Alabama and the Civil War" and "College Football in Alabama." The site also includes several photo galleries, a glossary, and some educational resources for teachers.
- **Eric A. Hegg Photographs** <http://content.lib.washington.edu/heggweb/index.html> The first thing that will strike visitors when they go to the University of Washington Libraries collection of Eric A. Hegg's photography is the photograph "Miss Gracie Robinson, Yukon, 1898" that appears on the homepage. She's wearing an intriguing smile, a garment of furs, cinched tight at the waist, a rifle over her shoulder, and an elaborate headpiece that looks birdlike and completes the outfit. The photo was taken in a studio by Hegg, and there are no notes to say whether she was playing dress up or was really going to be joining in the gold rush. Eric Hegg documented the Klondike and Alaska gold rushes, and the digital collection of his photographs held by the University of Washington Libraries numbers 730 images, out of over 2100 in the entire physical Hegg collection. The collection can be browsed in its entirety, or by subject. Helpfully, there are even "Sample Searches" given on the right hand side of the page. Some of the suggestions given include "Mining," "Transportation Methods," "Women of the Klondike," and "Disasters."
- **Copyright Criminals: Music Sampling and Copyright Law** <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/copyright-criminals/film.html> The website for Independent Lens, PBS' independent film arm, has some great online features to go along with their new film about what was once called "borrowed melody." In the 1980s and 1990s, it became easier for musicians to "borrow" from existing recordings of other musicians, and a case for copyright infringement came to light. But, this thoughtful PBS film is not just about a legal battle, it "examines the creative and commercial value of musical sampling, including the related debates over artistic expression, copyright law and money." To understand the complexity of the debate over sampling and copyright law, visitors should check out the link "Sampling" near the top of the page, which provides "Sampling: an Overview," a "Timeline," which can be viewed as a flipbook, list, map, or traditional timeline, and a "Glossary of Terms." The "Classroom" feature for the film is for 9th-12th graders, as well as for college students. Video modules explain the different issues in the debate, such as "Can You Own a Sound?," "Sampling in Other Forms of Media and Industry," and "Hip Hop Sampling Theft or Tribute?" All the "Educational Materials" including "Educator Guide," "Teacher and Student Handout," and "Discussion Guide" are available below the

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

video modules, and are free to download.

Think Green: Tips and Resources for Earth-Friendly Learning Projects

In honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day *Edutopia* has a brand-new classroom resource filled with inspiring ideas and classroom-tested resources, including 10 big ideas for helping the planet, along with related resources to help in the classroom. To download this resource, visit <http://www.edutopia.org/think-green-classroom-resource-guide>

From the NSTA Calendar: Trash to Treasure Competition

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/calendar/?lid=exp>

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, *Design Squad*, a PBS KIDS GO! television series, has launched the nationwide 2010 Trash to Treasure competition at <http://pbskids.org/designsquad/contest/index.html>. The contest challenges students ages 5–19 from across the United States to recycle, reuse, and re-engineer everyday materials into new inventions. Students' inventions should

- Move things or people;
- Protect the environment; or
- Be used for indoor or outdoor play.

Twenty-five finalists will be featured on the *Design Squad* website. Three grand-prize winners will go to Boston to see their designs built and appear on the program and its website. Contestants must register online by September 5. For more science education opportunities, visit the NSTA online calendar.

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/calendar/?lid=exp>

Windows to the Universe windows2universe.org is a user-friendly learning system covering the Earth and Space sciences for use by the general public. This colorful and robust interactive site includes a rich array of documents, images, movies, and animations, which explore the Earth and Space sciences and the historical and cultural ties among science, exploration, and the human experience.

Every year **NIDA hosts a Drug Facts Chat Day** Teens have questions about drugs and drug abuse. Without a credible source for answers, they turn to the Internet, friends, and pop culture, often leaving them with dangerous misinformation that can lead to serious consequences. The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) is launching National Drug Facts Week in November when high school football is in the air and parties are on the mind. During this week, communities across the country are encouraged to hold question & answer events about drugs for a teen audience. Check out the online toolkit <http://www.drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov/planyouevent.php>. For more information or questions, contact drugfacts@nida.nih.gov.

CVS Pharmacy has a collection of multimedia presentations on a variety of health resources and topics at <http://www.cvshealthresources.com/topic/multimedia>. There are three sections on the site — animations, multimedia, and audio.

LearnCentral <http://www.learncentral.org/> is a new social learning network for education, sponsored by Elluminate. LearnCentral is for any educator who is passionate about teaching and learning and wants to find and connect with like-minded colleagues to share content, develop best practices, and collaborate on a global level. The site lists public, free, and interactive webinars, or consider hosting your own public webinars using the LearnCentral public room--instructions are available by joining the "Host Your Own Webinar" group on the main announcement tab <http://www.learncentral.org/group/3432/host-your-own-webinars>.

BooksShouldBeFree <http://www.booksshouldbefree.com> makes the world's public domain audio books available for download. Books that have entered the public domain are digitized and recorded by volunteers that coordinate themselves through a variety of websites. The majority of public domain books, however, are digitized by Gutenberg.org and recorded by Librivox.org. BooksShouldBeFree draws on these public domain sources to deliver free audio books to you in an engaging and fun way. The files will play on any device that plays MP3 files.

From Tech and Learning <http://www.techlearning.com/blogs/27632>

- **Technology Toolkits** This article discusses how teachers blended Web 2.0 resources and the needs of their students into a toolkit that will travel with them through the grades. This toolkit concept allows the students to

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

try out different ways of spell checking, different graphic organizers, ways to create checklists while working on their projects, ways to listen to their work, and ways to publish their work in engaging and motivating venues. Since the tools are available online, students can use their toolkit at home and at school. No software to purchase, no saving their work in different ways to accommodate a program at home.

The authors discuss the many choices for your students to build their own toolkits, allowing them to differentiate their process and product. Many of the tools give the students the ability to collaborate with others while working on projects. A great by-product of giving access to these online tools is that your students will extend their learning far beyond the hours they spend in school. Check out the links and try some of these resources, then add in your own based on your students needs and current projects.

Here is an example of a working toolkit.

- **Photopeach** <http://www.photopeach.com/> A great place for students to use images in a presentation about a book, a project, a concept
- **Wordle** <http://www.wordle.net/> A great place for students to capture vocabulary in a book, project, pre-teaching, comprehension
- **What Kind of Learner are You?** <http://people.usd.edu/~bwjames/tut/learning-style/stylest.html> Let your students check out their learning style
- **Find a book at your Lexile** <http://lexile.com/findabook/> Let your students check out their lexile reading level choices
- **Mad Libs** <http://www.eduplace.com/tales/> Let your students create their own mad libs
- **Library of Congress** <http://www.loc.gov/families/> The Library of Congress has great primary source information, students love it.
- **Ask.com** <http://www.ask.com/> A user friendly place to being a research project.
- **Citation Machine** <http://citationmachine.net/> Learners can cite their sources.
- **Graphic Organizers** <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/> A source for graphic organizers.
- **Visual Thesaurus** <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/> Just what it says! Students love it.
- **Awesome Adjectives and Sensory Words** <http://www.grammarunited.com/adjectives/adjectivelist.html> Stupendous!
- **Spell Checker** <http://www.ghotit.com/home.shtml> Great spell checker.
- **Create your own checklist!**
<http://pblchecklist.4teachers.org/testing.php3?idunique=3&max=6&checklist=4> You and your student can create a personalized editing checklist.
- **Listen to your work!** <http://www.readthewords.com/members/Login.aspx> Use this site to hear your text read to you.

What would you put in a student toolkit?

We Are Multicolored <http://www.waaremulticolored.com/> can be used for teaching lessons about diversity, ethnicity, and culture, using the idea that everyone is different and should express themselves with their own flags. Users answer three short questions, then pick different elements to place on their own flag. We Are Multicolored can help students learn about and express a little bit about themselves.

Packrati.us - Use Twitter for Bookmarking <http://packrati.us/> assists users to bookmark links without leaving Twitter. Packrati.us also uses hashtags to ignore or to add links. Twitter can be a great place to develop a PLN because of the wealth of great resources shared between teachers. Packrati.us could be a helpful tool for efficiently bookmarking the resources you share and that others share with you.

Here are some related items that may be of interest to you:

- **Seven Ways to Find Teachers on Twitter** <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/11459965/Seven-Ways-to-Find-Teachers-on-Twitter>
- **How to Build a Personal Learning Network** <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/9812713/How-to-Build-a-Personal-Learning-Network>
- **Why Do We Connect?** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/03/why-do-we-connect.html>

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

Teach Green <http://www.gm.com/experience/education/blog/> is a lesson plan resource for teachers developed by General Motors and Weekly Reader. Teach Green provides teachers with free lesson plans for teaching about fuel cells, energy, the environment, and vehicle technology. Teachers can browse the collection of lesson plans by topic, grade level, or national standard. I browsed through the lesson plans earlier today and found that most are available with detailed directions that can be downloaded as PDFs. In addition to the lesson plans, GM education provides some simple online games for K-8 students to play. The games are loosely based on the lessons in the lesson plan collection.

Here are some related items that may be of interest to you:

- **The Breathing Earth - Interactive Map** <http://www.breathingearth.net/>
- **National Geographic Video - The Human Footprint** http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/human_footprint/
- **Rising Sea Levels - A Tale of Two Cities** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8369236.stm>
- **Shelly Blake Plock's Paperless Earth Day Pledge Sheet.** <http://teachpaperless.blogspot.com/>

Google Tools and Resources

- **Map a List** <http://mapalist.com/> (not a Google product) using Google APIs to turn Google Spreadsheet information into Google Maps placemarks. Map a List could be used for a classroom genealogy project. Create a spreadsheet form in which students input information about where their ancestors came from. Then use Map a List to show the distribution of ancestries of the students in your classroom.
- **Free 33 Page Guide - Google for Teachers** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/03/free-33-page-guide-google-for-teachers.html>
- **Using Maps in an Elementary School Math Lesson** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/02/using-maps-in-elementary-school-math.html>
- **Google Maps Labs - Try the Newest Options** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/02/google-maps-labs-try-newest-options.html>
- **Google Earth Scavenger Hunts** http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/04/google-earth-savenger-hunts.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+freetech4teachers%2FcGEY+%28Free+Technology+for+Teachers%29
- **Google Lat Long Blog** <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/> Students use Google Earth to discover new-to-them natural and man-made sites in their local areas, or create a scavenger hunt to complete in Google Earth. By swapping scavenger hunts, students in other classrooms can learn about the local environment and history of the other students' homes.
- **Google Maps Labs - Try the Newest Options** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/02/google-maps-labs-try-newest-options.html>
- **Google Earth Across the Curriculum** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/01/google-earth-across-curriculum.html>
- **Place Spotting - Challenging Geographic Riddles** <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/09/place-spotting-challenging-geographic.html>
- **Google 411**, also known as **Google Voice Local Search**, is a service that allows you to search for local businesses through a phone line. With it, you can search for a business by either its name or just simply by a category. For example, if you're trying to find a pizza restaurant, you can search by the actual name (for instance, Pizza Hut) or you can search just by the word "pizza." To try Google 411, enter in this phone number on any phone: **1-800-GOOG-411**, which is also **1-800-466-4411**. To find out more about Google 411, visit <http://www.google.com/goog411/>.

NEWEST eTHEMES

Australia: Endangered Species These sites focus on Australia's endangered species and conservation efforts. Find out what caused wildlife to become endangered and what you can do to conserve the endangered species. Includes lists of endangered animals and plants, fact sheets, and habitats. There are also activities and lesson plans to go with the topic. Includes a link to eThemes Resource on wildlife conservation. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002564.shtml>

Australia: Geography These websites are about the geography and climate of Australia. There are maps, facts, printouts, and lesson plans. Included is an eThemes resource on facts about Australia.

Newest eTHEMES, cont'd.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002563.shtml>

Confucianism Learn more about the philosopher Confucius and the Confucianism system of beliefs. Read essential texts associated with this philosophy, listen to a podcast discussing Confucianism in China, and take a quiz to test your knowledge. Included is an eThemes resource on China.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002560.shtml>

Gender Differences in Communication These sites provide information on the differences between males and females when communicating. Information is included about verbal and non-verbal communication skills, tips on talking to parents and friends, social networking connections, research findings about communication differences, and lesson plans. Additional eThemes resources are included on Teen Issues and Peer Pressure.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002562.shtml>

Public Health These sites describe the benefits of why eating properly, exercising, and getting proper sleep are necessary for a healthy teen lifestyle. Quizzes, interactive websites, videos, recipes, and BMI calculators can be found. Included are eThemes health resources on obesity, metabolism, and eating disorders.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002555.shtml>