



Fall 2007

# OF TECHNOLOGY

for K-12 Educators

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Welcome to



# OF TECHNOLOGY

for K-12 Educators

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**Respond and win an HP Photosmart R927 digital camera.**  
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# Attainable Grants

## OPPORTUNITIES BY DEADLINE DATE

Supporting early-literacy professional development is the goal of **Bruce Larkin IRA & RR Reading Conference Grants**. Annually, 500 teachers will further their instructional knowledge and skills at a national **International Reading Association (IRA)** or **Reading Recovery** conference with the help of this grant. Cash awards of up to \$200 each will be made to 500 K–3 literacy professionals to attend either of these conferences. Bruce Larkin, the author of *Larkin's Little Readers*, shares his passion for literacy by making it possible for literacy teachers to stay current in their field. Find more details and the application form on **Wilmington Book Source, Inc.'s** Web site.

**Deadline:** Varies, but entries must be received well in advance of each conference

**Web:** <http://www.wilbooks.com/scholarships/travelgrant.php>

Supporting programs with a national reach and notable impact on providing **assistive technology** to people with disabilities is the current focus of **grants** from the **NEC Foundation of America**. Initial queries are required; full proposals must be invited. In order to be considered an eligible applicant, schools partner with a nonprofit organization. To begin, email a short (100 words or less) inquiry to the foundation that includes a project overview, stating how the project relates to the concerns of the foundation and the amount requested. Further details are available at the foundation's Web site, as are application guidelines and features such as "How to Gauge the Likelihood of Funding" and "Tips for Improving Your Proposal."

**Deadlines:** Full proposals due September 1, 2007 and March 1, 2008

**Web:** <http://www.necfoundation.org/toapply/toapply.htm>

Fair weather and calm seas await schools or districts willing to partner with community organizations for **grants** from the **Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation**. As with many community-focused foundations, the primary interest is in helping underserved students access greater learning opportunities and achievement. Preferred are proposals that focus on increasing literacy, math, science and life skills, or promote citizenship and service. Project proposals may be national in scope or target the port communities that host cruise ships. Full details are posted on the foundation's Web site.

**Deadlines:** Every three months—next rounds end September 1, 2007 and January 1, 2008

**Web:** <http://www.iccl.org/foundation/guidelines.cfm>



□ Go globetrotting with your peers. **Toyota's International Teacher Program** heads to Japan, the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica for its 2007–08 study tours. In its ninth year, the program now encompasses secondary teachers as well as postsecondary faculty. Teachers of grades 7–12 in all subject areas from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are thus eligible for these **fully funded, 10- or 12-day study tours**. Each is organized around appropriate “country-specific” themes. The tours are expressly designed to expand both educators’ professional skills and their understanding of our global environment.

**Deadlines:** Applications due September 7, 2007 for Costa Rica in February 2008; January 2008 for Japan in June 2008; February 2008 for Galapagos Islands in October 2008

**Web:** <http://www.iie.org/>

**Template.cfm?&Template=/programs/toyota/default.htm**

□ To celebrate its 50th birthday, the **American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)** is sponsoring a **one-time cash grants program** for high schools in Chicago, Houston, Miami, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. The **AARP Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Awards** will provide six awards of \$100,000 in each of these cities to the school that most fosters “intergenerational understanding” or creates a school and community program that enhances “civic engagement.” Find out how to apply, details on eligibility and the criteria for judging on the AARP’s Web page.

**Deadline:** Entries due October 1, 2007

**Web:** [http://www.aarp.org/](http://www.aarp.org/about_aarp/rrta/legacy_award.html#entry)

**about\_aarp/rrta/legacy\_award.html#entry**

□ Sports broadcaster Bob Costas is the namesake of these annual grants from the **College Board**. Six “exceptional” grades 6–12 teachers will each receive \$3,000 via **Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing**. Applicants must “already be doing an inspiring job” and be using “innovative methods,” such as blogs or other Web 2.0 technologies, to develop their students’ writing skills. Visit the College Board’s Web site for details and a simple downloadable application form. On a larger scale, entire schools are singled out for recognition by the College Board’s annual **\$25,000 Inspiration Awards**. Three secondary schools that help students to vault over social, cultural and economic barriers will each win \$25,000, and five others will receive \$1,000 each. Winning schools are those that create programs or partnerships to help economically disadvantaged students go to college. More details are on the College Board’s Web site.

**Deadline:** Applications for both the grants and the awards due by November 16, 2007

**Web:** [http://www.collegeboard.com/](http://www.collegeboard.com/counselors/teachers/costas_grants.html)

**about/association/inspiration.html**



□ “You invent it. We fund it—to the tune of \$5 million!” The **Knight News Challenge** seeks **innovative digital projects that will improve community news**. Anyone can enter, even students under the age of 18 or non-U.S. citizens. Simply take 20 minutes to complete an online Letter of Inquiry. Full proposals will be invited from the most promising submissions. Four categories—Idea, Pilot Project & Field Test, Leadership and Commercial Products & Investment—allow people of all ages and experience an equal opportunity for some big money. Moreover, there is no limit to the number of entries one can submit. The goal is to think creatively about digital news collection, creation and dissemination. See the Web site for answers to FAQs, details about the different categories, tips about what they *don’t* want—and more. For questions, contact the Knight Foundation by email: [newschallenge@knightfdn.org](mailto:newschallenge@knightfdn.org)

**Deadline:** Online entries due October 15, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.newschallenge.org/>

□ The **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)** support K–12 schools’ efforts to teach citizenship through its **National Citizenship Education Teachers’ Award**, given to 1,000 teachers each year. By promoting the history and traditions of our country, K–12 teachers are eligible to win \$1,000 toward professional development in citizenship topics and \$1,000 for their school. All winners are given the opportunity to receive the award in person with an expense-paid trip to the VFW and Ladies’ Auxiliary National Community Service Conference in Washington, D.C. For more information about the VFW or its Teachers’ Award program, educators should contact their local VFW post.

**Deadline:** Nominations due November 1, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtylevel&did=1832>

**Plus:** Don’t miss the VFW’s **Patriot’s Pen essay contest for grades 6–8 students**, and **Voice of Democracy audio-essay contest for high school students**. Cash prizes, scholarships and more are awarded in these annual competitions. Entries for both contests are due November 1, 2007.

□ Plant seeds of inspiration via the **2008 Youth Garden Grants Program**. Sponsored by the **National Gardening Association (NGA)** and **The Home Depot**, these grants allow educators to create a school garden for learning purposes. At least 15 students must participate, and the garden must be used to explore fundamentals of plant life, nutrition, the food chain, environmental issues or the social aspects of community gardening such as team building. In 2008, there will be 150 awards for start-up and established gardens. The top 50 proposals will receive \$500 gift cards for gardening supplies, and another 100 proposals will receive \$250 gift cards.

**Deadlines:** Applications due November 1, 2007; as an early-bird incentive, applications postmarked by October 1, 2007 will be included in a drawing on October 12, 2007 for a \$100 gift certificate from NGA’s *Gardening with Kids* store and catalog.

**Web:** <http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp>



Both public and private K–12 schools may apply for a **literacy grant** from the **Verizon Foundation**. The parent company is a prominent supporter of instructional technology that assists developing readers in every stage of life. Its foundation focuses on two areas of literacy, one old and one new: helping nonreaders achieve **fluency** and equipping all students with the **21st century skills** needed to fully participate in an information economy. Grant guidelines are fully outlined on the foundation’s Web site, and the company guarantees a response to the initial online grant query within 72 hours. A school must be registered with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to qualify, but most projects on improving students’ reading and writing skills will be considered. Application instructions are on the foundation’s Web site.

**Deadline:** Ongoing review January 1 through November 30, annually

**Web:** <http://foundation.verizon.com/02006.shtml>

Could your students build a better mousetrap, a robot, or solar panels for the lab roof? If so, a **classroom grant** from the **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Foundation** will help get that idea off the drawing board. K–12 teachers may apply for up to \$200 each for classroom demonstration kits, lab supplies or instructional materials for math or science. Teachers must join the organization (for *free*) to apply. The school limit of \$1,000 per year still would underwrite five memorable projects for students. Applications must be received one month prior to the annual proposal review dates of January, March, June and September. Online submissions are preferred. All details and a proposal form are posted on the AIAA’s Web site.

**Deadlines:** Applications due in December 2007 and February, May and August 2008

**Web:** <http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=216>

An **Outdoor Classroom Grant** creates opportunities for students to have hands-on natural science experiences. Funded by **Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and its foundation, and National Geographic Explorer! magazine**, 100 grants of \$2,000 to \$20,000 each will be awarded during the 2007–08 school year. All U.S. public K–12 schools may apply. Applications are reviewed three times per year. Access the online application at the Web page indicated below.

**Deadline:** Next round ends December 31, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.lowes.com>

[lowes/llkn?action=pg&p>AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html](http://www.lowes.com/lowes/llkn?action=pg&p>AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html)



Public K–12 schools may submit multiple grant proposals to the **HP K–12 Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative**. The focus is on delivering high-quality instructional resources using mobile technology and other technology to create positive learning outcomes for students. Based on the outcomes for the 2007 award recipients, there is a possibility that **Hewlett-Packard (HP)** will further fund some existing projects. Winners receive a package of technology and customized professional development worth more than \$30,000. For a 2008 application form and more, visit HP’s grants Web site in November.

**Deadline:** Applications tentatively due February 2008

**Web:** [http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech\\_teaching/index.html](http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html)

“We need to be the people we want our children to become,” notes USA All-Star Teacher Rafe Esquith. The **Gannett Co., Inc.’s USA TODAY** newspaper annually chooses outstanding students and teachers to become part of their **All-USA Academic and Teacher Teams**. Junior or senior-level students nominated to the **High School Academic Teams** must both “excel in scholarship” and “extend their intellectual abilities ... to benefit society.” They must also submit a written essay. The 20 students named to the First Team each receive a trophy and a \$2,500 cash award; up to 40 runners-up receive recognition and certificates. Home-schooled and U.S. students in schools outside the U.S. are also eligible. All K–12 public or private school teachers in the U.S. with at least four years of experience are eligible for the **All-USA Teacher Teams**. They must be nominated by someone “willing to put in writing why they are outstanding.” They must also provide two additional letters of recommendation. Individual educators and teacher teams may be nominated. The 20 winning teachers each receive a trophy and \$500 cash, with the remaining balance of the \$2,500 cash award going to the school. Visit the All-USA Teams Web pages or call (703) 854-5890; email: [allstars@usatoday.com](mailto:allstars@usatoday.com)

**Deadlines:** Nominations for Student Teams accepted December 1, 2007 through mid-February 2008; nominations for Teacher Teams accepted October 1, 2007 through April 2008

**Web:** <http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/allstars/front.htm?Loc=vanity>

**Attention Web Browsers:** Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.

Continued on page 10 ➔



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Hike rain forests in Costa Rica, explore active volcanoes in Hawaii or lead a group of teachers through World War II concentration camps. Fellowship grants from Fund for Teachers, a public foundation, make these and other self-designed **summer sabbaticals for personal and professional development** a reality for preK–12 teachers. Applicants must detail how they expect the experiences to impact their teaching practice, their students or their school community. Winners document their trip, write a reflective report and explain how the experience will affect their teaching or classrooms. More than 2,500 teachers from 47 states have traveled to 91 countries since the program's inception. See the Web site for all details.

**Deadline:** Application for summer 2008 sabbaticals posted in October 2007

**Web:** <http://www.fundforteachers.org>

The **Teacher at Sea** program puts educators alongside scientists on NOAA ships. Both K–12 and college educators are eligible. This **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** program helps teachers bring new insights about our ocean planet to their teaching. As an interdisciplinary research experience, participants enhance their maritime knowledge, environmental literacy and enthusiasm for learning. They return to share this new information and passion with their students. Teachers at Sea work on NOAA research ships under the direction of scientists and crew. Find selection criteria and expectations of participating teachers on the Web site. The site also has stories about the experiences of the 26 teachers chosen for the 2007 Field Season.

**Deadline:** Application for 2008 season will be posted on October 1, 2007

**Web:** <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/>

Sprint Nextel's signature grant program—**The Sprint Achievement Program**—focuses on professional development for educators, student achievement and involvement of families in their children's education. These K–12 grants are restricted to the greater Kansas City metro area including Missouri. In spring 2007, the program awarded 103 winners \$500 to \$5,000 each. The process launches in February with an optional grant-writing workshop prior to opening up for applications; recipients are notified in June. Find complete details on the Web site.

**Deadline:** See site at beginning of year for 2008 deadline

**Web:** <http://www.sprint.com/community/education/achievement.html>

**Respond and win an HP Photosmart R927 digital camera.**

See back cover for details.



Financial company ING USA's ING **Unsung Heroes** celebrates educators. Annually, 100 K–12 teachers are rewarded for their innovative teaching strategies that improve learning. Each educator receives \$2,000 for their school, and at least one winner is chosen from all 50 states. Three of the top winning teachers are selected for additional grants of \$25,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000. Visit the Web site for more details and a grant application.

**Deadline:** Applications for 2008 award due April 30, 2008

**Web:** <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/communityconnections/ineducation/unsungheroes/index.htm>

**Plus:** Other K–12 initiatives from the firm include National Teacher of the Year, the Planet Orange Financial Literacy Awards, an all-new ING Chances for Children program and its foundation's priority of funding financial-literacy projects.

**Web:** <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/communityconnections/ineducation/index.htm>

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

The nonprofit **Do Something** organization and **GameStop** videogame stores have teamed up to sponsor **GameStop Youth Grants**. The goal is to encourage teens and young adults to “make a difference.” Their involvement can take many forms—from participating in an environmental project in their school or community to giving voice to people who feel voiceless such as immigrants or those in need of special services and unable to afford them.

**Deadlines:** Weekly for both grants

**Web:** [http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop\\_grants](http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop_grants)

**Web:** [http://www.dosomething.org/plum\\_grants](http://www.dosomething.org/plum_grants)

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□ For **Digital Wish Grants**, submit one application to become eligible for up to 43 different **hardware** and **software grants** throughout the year. The two sponsors, **Olympus** and **Tool Factory**, supply the digital cameras and numerous software packages. Moreover, once an application is submitted, it keeps on working. People anywhere in the world can read it and help support that classroom through a donation. The first step is to register a classroom by creating a *free* Class Profile with the site's embedded tools. That profile becomes the "application," so be creative and compelling in telling how technology is used by the class. The second step is to submit one or more original lesson plans, which get added to the Class Profile. Judges will be considering not only the profile, but also the quality and content of the lesson plans. All K–12 teachers who submit a lesson plan are automatically entered to **win a Mobile Digital Camera Lab**. Visit the Digital Wish Web site for all details and the full grants calendar detailing what prizes are awarded each month.

**Deadlines:** Monthly, on the 28th, for all grants

**Web:** [http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grant\\_awards](http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grant_awards)

□ Focused on improving the quality and the equality of education, the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** offers many **education grants**. Projects that are designed to improve instruction, promote universal access to resources and develop or refine K–12 instructional technology—particularly Open Educational Resources—will be considered for 2007–08. Districtwide projects are preferred over those for individual schools. A letter of inquiry is generally required; unsolicited applications are not accepted. However, after October 1, 2007, the foundation will accept unsolicited *letters of inquiry* for Open Educational Resources projects. Visit the Web site for full details and entry instructions.

**Deadline:** None for letters of inquiry

**Web:** <http://www.hewlett.org/grantseekers/edguidelines.html>

□ **State Farm Insurance Company grants** supports education efforts that align to the goal of every student achieving his or her potential. The firm has identified nine "elements of education excellence": (1) safety & discipline; (2) parent involvement; (3) learning standards; (4) assessments; (5) learning readiness; (6) accountability; (7) technology; (8) professional development; (9) school autonomy. Projects should integrate these elements and elevate the quality of classroom instruction, commit to systemic reform and include service learning. Visit the Web site for details on how to apply.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** [http://www.statefarm.com/about/part\\_spos/grants/cogrants.asp](http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp)

Continued on page 14 ➤



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The **Corning Incorporated Foundation** annually awards \$3 million in grants to K–12 schools in the localities where Corning operates. Its grants have upgraded school equipment, enhanced curricula with technology components and provided professional development in technology. The first step is to send a short letter of inquiry that outlines the project along with an itemized budget, timetable and goals. Full proposals must be invited. Contact: Karen Martin, Associate Director, Corning Incorporated Foundation, MP-BH-07, Corning, NY 14831.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** [http://www.corning.com/inside\\_corning/our\\_commitment/community.aspx](http://www.corning.com/inside_corning/our_commitment/community.aspx)

The **Spencer Foundation's** educational research grants aim to “contribute to the improvement of educational thought or practice.” Grants are made in four key areas: (1) the relationship between education and social opportunity; (2) organizational learning in schools, school systems and higher education institutions; (3) teaching, learning, and instructional resources; and 4) purposes and values of education. Detailed instructions about the application process are on the foundation's Web site.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** <http://www.spencer.org/main.htm>

Funded by the **Deluxe Foundation**, The **Reading Is For Life** grants program has already given more than \$1 million to schools that target **struggling readers in K–3**. Preference is given to Title I schools with programs that specifically include teacher training and parent involvement. Awards are not made for general reading curricula or library materials. An initial inquiry via the Web site must be made to begin the application process.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** <http://www.deluxe.com/dlxab/deluxe-foundation-reading.jsp>

Rosie O'Donnell's **Rosie's For All Kids Foundation's** 1,400-plus grants have given thousands of young children and their families the opportunity to be in quality care facilities that support the early-learning needs of every child. Preference is given to well-established community-based groups that provide early education and/or child-care services to low-income families. School districts are not eligible. Grants are awarded annually and range from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Tuition subsidies, playground enhancements, small renovation projects and instructional materials all qualify for grants. Initial letters of inquiry are required, and full proposals must be invited. Awards are made in the fall and spring each year.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** <http://www.forallkids.org/site.php?module=article&pageid=48&identifier=Overview>



□ The **Target Field Trip grant program** is expanding for the 2007–08 school year with plans to award 1,600 grants of up to \$1,000 each to teachers for such excursions. Museums, cultural events, civic experiences and environmental projects lead the list of approved programs. Check the Web site in September for the review dates for this year’s field trip awards.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537>

□ The **Annenberg Foundation** has donated more than \$3 billion over the last 15 years in grants to improve communities through education. The foundation’s Web site hosts an extensive database with details on all 5,600 previous grants and provides guidelines to help optimize inquiries. While it no longer accepts proposals from individual schools, the foundation will consider funding initiatives in which schools partner with community nonprofits, colleges, museums or similar groups. See the Web site for how to begin the process; full proposals must be invited.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** <http://www.annenbergfoundation.org/grants/>

□ An extraordinary library of inspirational videos from prior grant recipients distinguishes the **W. K. Kellogg Foundation** Web site. Its **Youth and Education grants** aim to improve learning outcomes for the country’s most at-risk children. The foundation funds efforts to support the healthy development of children—from infancy to adulthood—by strategically aligning all community resources, including schools, to maximize student learning opportunities and outcomes. Featured projects and guidelines can be found on its robust Web site. After viewing previous projects and guidelines, submit an initial inquiry, electronically, via the Web site.

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** <http://www.wkff.org/default.aspx?tabid=63&ItemID=6&NID=41&LanguageID=0>

□ The **Wachovia Foundation** sponsors several grant initiatives designed to increase student achievement in underserved communities. Two are **Community Needs Grants** and the **Wachovia Teachers & Teaching Initiative**. The foundation supports individual schools only through a separate Matching Gifts Program and employee volunteerism. Thus, one must partner with a community organization that can benefit multiple schools or districts to apply for these two grants. Projects that support teachers’ professional development in a demonstrable and scalable manner may be awarded grants of \$100,000 to \$250,000 each. For more details, visit the foundation’s Web site. The first step is to complete a quick online eligibility quiz. (Click on Application Process on left menu.)

**Deadline:** None; ongoing review

**Web:** [http://www.wachovia.com/inside/page/0,,139\\_414\\_430\\_432,00.html](http://www.wachovia.com/inside/page/0,,139_414_430_432,00.html)

## Prize-winning Awards and Competitions

FOR TEACHERS, SCHOOLS OR ADMINISTRATORS

□ **The Broad Center** continues its quest to have the nation's most talented executives run the business of urban education. Founded by Eli Broad, the center is accepting résumés as part of its application process for admission to the **2008 Broad Superintendents Academy**. The center is specifically seeking "(1) Educators with a proven track record of success; (2) Outstanding senior executives from education, business, government, the military and nonprofit organizations; (3) Dynamic entrepreneurs and risk-takers who challenge the status quo." Nominations and applications are accepted online. Contact: The Broad Center, (310) 954-5080; email: [academy@broadcenter.org](mailto:academy@broadcenter.org)

**Deadline:** Submit résumés by September 7, 2007

**Web:** <http://broadacademy.org/program/admissions.php>

□ New to teaching science? The **National Science Teachers Association's (NSTA) New Science Teacher Academy** wants you! First- and second-year science teachers of any K–12 school can apply to become an Associate Fellow, second- and third-year teachers at middle or high schools can apply to be a Fellow. In all, up to 200 science teachers will be selected in 2007 to receive a year-long fellowship. Each fellowship offers access to a wide array of **professional development activities**, online mentoring with trained mentors, plus expenses-paid attendance at the NSTA national conference. Visit the NSTA Web site for more details on this new-for-2007 initiative.

**Deadline:** Applications accepted through September 30, 2007, or until all positions allocated

**Web:** <http://www.nsta.org/academy/>

□ The **Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge** conducts the **Leavey Awards for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education** to honor outstanding educators who excite a commitment in their students to the private-enterprise system. To be eligible, nominees must have conceived and implemented an "innovative course, program or project" that deepens students' understanding and appreciation of America's entrepreneurially based system. Teachers at K–12 schools are eligible for the \$7,500 award. A special award of \$15,000 may also be given for an "unusually meritorious" entry. Find complete details at the foundation's Web site. Submit entries to Awards Department, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, 1601 Valley Forge Road, Valley Forge, PA 19482; for questions, (800) 896-5488; email: [ffvf@ffvf.org](mailto:ffvf@ffvf.org)

**Deadline:** Submit nomination packages by October 1, 2007

**Web:** [http://www.ffvf.org/leavey\\_info.asp](http://www.ffvf.org/leavey_info.asp)



□ The “best practices” for a K–12 school district will be recognized and rewarded in the 2008 **Magna Awards**, sponsored by the **National School Boards Association’s (NSBA) *American School Board Journal***, in cooperation with **Sodexho School Services**. The goal is to widely replicate successful strategies and approaches. Winners will receive national coverage in a special magazine supplement to the journal and will be honored at NSBA’s annual conference. Awards are given in three enrollment categories: fewer than 5,000 students, from 5,001 to 20,000, and more than 20,000. Grand-prize winners in each category receive a \$3,500 cash award from Sodexho. Nominations for 2008 are being accepted only online.

**Deadline:** Submit nominations by October 1, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.asbj.com/magna>

□ Math teachers in grades 5–9, Mr. Tu may want you! **BestQuest Teaching Systems** is now conducting **Mr. Tu’s Next Excellent Example Talent Search**. This math software publisher seeks a great teacher who makes math “cool” for students. The award-winning teacher will be someone who embraces technology and transforms ordinary students into mathematically motivated learners. To enter, nominated teachers must provide student quotes, lesson plans, a video and more; see the Web site for full details. One winning teacher—The Next Excellent Example Educator—will receive a classroom set of the firm’s **Math’scool** interactive DVD-based curriculum, a chance to be featured in an upcoming BestQuest product, a classroom premier party and a professional development voucher to a regional math teachers’ conference.

**Deadline:** Submit all materials by October 15, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.bestquest.com/talentsearch>

□ Make way for the K–12 leaders of tomorrow! Annually, the **Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)** recognizes an emerging educational leader via its **ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award (OYEA)**. The goal is to honor the winner and more important, to share his or her exemplary practices with the education community. ASCD selects four OYEA finalists from two rounds of nominations—spring and fall. The winner, chosen each December, receives \$10,000, is profiled in the association’s *Educational Leadership* magazine, and honored at the following year’s national ASCD conference or district. Criteria for consideration are available online.

**Deadline:** Fall nominations due by October 15, annually

**Web:** <http://ascd.org/oyea.html>

**Attention Web Browsers:** Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



□ **Music in Motion**, a family-owned, music-education business, created the **Butterfly Award** to encourage schools and organizations to develop exceptional music programs for children or adults who are in special need. The award was created in memory of the 15,000 children imprisoned during the Holocaust in Terezin, Czechoslovakia, whose spirits were kept alive by music and the arts. To apply for an award, send information about a project or organization, explaining the background, goals and results of the musical endeavor, and describing how it has affected those involved. Winners receive gift certificates of \$100 to \$1,000 for Music in Motion products. Mail information to: Butterfly Awards, Music in Motion, P.O. Box 869231, Plano, TX 75086, or email Stephanie Cuento at [P.O. Cuento@musicmotion.com](mailto:P.O. Cuento@musicmotion.com)

**Deadline:** Submit entries by October 31, 2007

**Web:** [http://www.musicmotion.com/content/mimi/CustomPages/butterfly\\_award.htm](http://www.musicmotion.com/content/mimi/CustomPages/butterfly_award.htm)

□ **SeaWorld/Busch Gardens and Fujifilm** are looking for students and teachers working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment. The **2008 SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards** will recognize eight projects. Each winner receives \$10,000 toward his or her project, an all-expenses-paid trip for three students and one adult leader to an Anheuser-Busch theme park for a special awards event, a Fujifilm digital camera for use by the group and more. One winning educator/leader will receive \$5,000, an all-expenses-paid trip for him- or herself and one guest to an Anheuser-Busch theme park for a special awards event, a Fujifilm digital camera and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2008 National Science Teachers Association's national conference. Entrants should submit a written presentation and may include videos, CDs, Web sites and other materials to demonstrate significant accomplishments; see the Web site for more details. Contact: SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/Fujifilm Environmental Excellence Awards, (877) 792-4332.

**Deadline:** Submit entries by November 30, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.seaworld.org/conservation-matters/lealindex.htm>

*Continued on page 20 ➔*

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See back cover for details.



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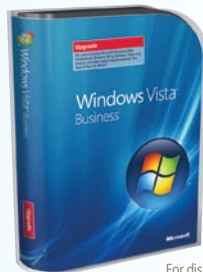
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□ CoSN (Consortium for School Networking) serves as an advocate for K–12 technology through its informative publications, initiatives and awards programs. For its awards, the nonprofit organization highlights those who demonstrate vision and creativity in applying information technologies and the Internet to K–12 education in order to improve learning. CoSN’s annual awards include ones for individuals as well as groups. A school’s Chief Technology Officer may be nominated for the individual **Withrow Award**, for example. For the **TEAM Award**, school or district technology teams that have had “significant” impact may be nominated. Other awards recognize the efforts of industry leaders. See the Web site for details. Candidates must be nominated by a CoSN member; however, a candidate does not need to be a member to win. Winners are honored at the annual CoSN conference, highlighted in the media and profiled in *Scholastic Administr@tor* Magazine.

**Deadlines:** Submit nominations by December 1, annually

**Web:** <http://www.cosn.org/about/awards/index.cfm>

□ *eSchool News*’ annual **Tech-Savvy Superintendent Awards** recognize those leaders who demonstrate “exemplary vision for the use of technology to improve all facets of education and show outstanding leadership in working to make this vision a reality.” Nominees, who must be general superintendents of a K–12 school system, will be judged according to multiple criteria. Ten national finalists will be chosen by the editors of *eSchool News* in consultation with the previous year’s winners. For more details, visit the publication’s Web site.

**Deadline:** Submit nominations by December 1, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/surveys/editorials/savvysavvy7.cfm>

□ Literacy should be a “family business” believes the **National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL)**. The center co-sponsors the **NCFL/Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award**, which is given to an educator who demonstrates “exemplary efforts” in family literacy to help parents *and* children achieve their academic, personal and professional goals. To be eligible for the \$5,000 award, nominees must have worked for at least three years in a literacy program that provides children’s education, adult education, parenting education and interactive literacy activities between parents and children. In addition, the winner will receive a trip to the annual NCFL conference. Find more details at the center’s Web site. Contact: National Center for Family Literacy, (502) 584-1133.

**Deadline:** Nominations will be accepted online through December 5, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.familit.org>



□ **Knowledge Adventure** is a developer and publisher of award-winning educational software, such as Math Blaster, the Jump Start series and, most recently, Books by You, which features actor John Lithgow guiding young authors. In spring 2007, the firm unveiled its new **Schools in Need Competition**—open only to schools that need to raise K–8 reading scores by at least 30 percent. Schools must also show a need for supplemental reading materials that address specific reading deficiencies, and they must have a concrete plan for how to use their technological investments for reading instruction. Winning schools will receive the new Knowledge Adventure Academy line of software for early literacy, reading comprehension and vocabulary, plus training and support. Ten awards will be given, each valued at \$12,000. Knowledge Adventure will assist winning schools with implementation and evaluation of student use, and more. To enter, visit the Web site and explain your school’s need for reading assistance. Winners will be announced in January 2008.

**Deadline:** Enter online by December 15, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.knowledgeadventureschool.com>

□ Sponsored by **Ford Motor Company** and the **National Park Foundation**, the **Share the Experience Photo Contest** attracts shutterbugs, history buffs, wildlife lovers and others. This annual photography contest showcases some of the most scenic, natural and historical wonders of the U.S., all found on federal recreation lands. Prizes, in 2007, comprise more than \$57,000 worth of goods and services. To enter, submit up to three photographs taken in a Federal Recreation Agency Lands area during 2007. Entries are accepted by postal mail or online. K–12 educators, in addition to submitting entries, are encouraged to integrate the contest’s gallery of photos into science, civics, history, literature, art and other disciplines. Fourteen winners for 2007 will earn national recognition, plus great prizes, such as a 2008 Ford Escape Hybrid, expenses-paid trips with spending money to a national park, digital cameras and more. Get inspired, review official rules and check out the online gallery.

**Deadline:** Submit entries by 11:59 PM (EST), December 31, 2007

**Web:** <http://nationalparks.eprize.net/experiencecontest/>

□ Media-savvy teachers should check out the **Horizon Interactive Awards**, an international competition “recognizing excellence in interactive media production.” Originally produced and highly interactive Web sites, CD-ROMs, DVDs, Flash-based movies, videos, kiosks and more are eligible. Categories include Education/Training; Video Documentary, Video Training and Video Game. A \$40 entry fee, per category, is required. Contact: Horizon Interactive Awards, (317) 219-0322; email: [info@horizoninteractiveawards.com](mailto:info@horizoninteractiveawards.com)

**Deadline:** Check for 2008 entry information online in fall 2007

**Web:** <http://www.horizoninteractiveawards.com>



□ The **Siemens Foundation** and the **College Board** reward Advanced Placement (AP) teachers in math, science and technology for their exemplary teaching and enthusiastic dedication to AP. The **Siemens AP Teacher Awards** of \$1,000 go to one math, science or technology AP teacher from each of the 50 states. One awardee is also named the **Siemens National AP Teacher of the Year** and receives an additional \$5,000. Teachers must have at least of five years of teaching experience in math, science or technology courses. Invitations for this award are sent to eligible high schools; teachers must complete an application to be considered. The College Board identifies the students, teachers and high schools eligible for Siemens AP awards and chooses final winners. Contact: College Board, (800) 626-9795 x5849, for questions.

**Deadlines:** Ongoing program, with recipients notified in the spring

**Web:** <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/awards/>

**Plus:** Similarly, one high school per state receives an **AP High School Award** and \$1,000. Data are taken from all schools participating in AP as recognized in the College Board's *Advanced Placement Report to the Nation*. See the Web site above for details.

□ With its **Presidential Award for Reading and Technology**, **PLATO Learning** honors educators in grades K–12 who are making an outstanding and innovative contribution to the use of technology in reading education. The award recognizes one grand-prize winner, seven U.S. regional winners, one Canadian winner and one international winner. All entrants must be educators who work directly with students aged 5–18 for all or part of the working day. Find more details on the International Reading Association's Web site.

**Deadline:** Generally in late fall; see IRA Web site for 2007 dates or email: [exec@reading.org](mailto:exec@reading.org)

**Web:** [http://www.reading.org/association/awards/teachers\\_presidential.html](http://www.reading.org/association/awards/teachers_presidential.html)

**Plus:** The IRA offers nine annual awards in conjunction with various sponsors. Deadlines generally range from September through January. For a full list, visit the IRA Web site and click on Awards and Grants.

□ The **Siemens Foundation** focuses on enhancing math and science education in high schools. For its **Founder's Award**, student participation in math, science or technology research may earn a school or individual \$15,000. Check the foundation's Web site for an application and the deadline for 2007–2008. Contact: Siemens Foundation, (877) 822-5233 (toll free); email: [foundation.us@siemens.com](mailto:foundation.us@siemens.com)

**Deadline:** See Web site for 2008 dates

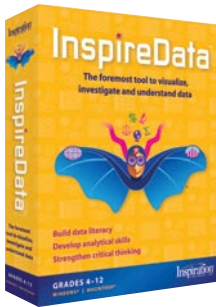
**Web:** <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/FoundersAward.htm>

Continued on page 24 ➤



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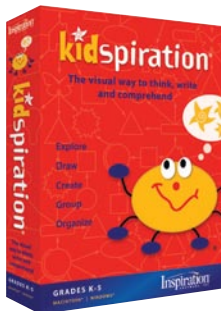
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**Adobe Systems** invites all K–12 teachers to submit lesson plans on photo-manipulation techniques in its **lesson plan competition**. Lessons must teach the use of Adobe Photoshop Elements software to students. Winning educators receive a copy of the newest version of that software. Winners are selected by Adobe Systems, and winning lesson plans are posted on the Adobe Digital Kids Club Web site in the Lessons and Activities area. Email lesson plans to [educomment@adobe.com](mailto:educomment@adobe.com)

**Deadline:** None; ongoing program

**Web:** <http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons/index.html>

Can you beat The Tornado? For its **\$100,000 Challenge, Data Drive Thru, Inc.** bets that no one can network two PCs and transfer a file between them faster and easier than its new product, The Tornado. Anyone who can, will win \$100,000! Download an application and review all of the rules and parameters of the challenge at the sponsor's Web site. The Tornado plugs into the USB ports of each computer, doesn't load software on them and is compatible with Microsoft Vista.

**Deadline:** None, ongoing contest

**Web:** <http://www.thetornado.com/site/challenge.shtml>

## FOR K–12 STUDENTS

A signature program of the **Siemens Foundation**, the **Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology** attracts high school science and math students nationwide. This annual contest, administered by the **College Board**, delivers cash scholarships to winning students and cash awards to schools. Scholarship amounts range from \$1,000 for regional finalists up to \$100,000 for national winners. Each high school that has a regional finalist receives \$2,000 (per project). Students may compete as individuals or as members of a team. To participate, students conduct a research project in mathematics, engineering, the biological or physical sciences and then write a paper describing their work. From the initial judging phase, 300 projects will be selected as semifinalists. From these semifinalists, up to 10 projects from each of six geographic regions will be chosen to compete at regional finals. Entries at the regional level are judged by faculty at six research universities. Regional finalists must prepare a poster display of their project, deliver an oral presentation and respond to questions from a panel of judges. The winning teams and students from each region then go on to compete in national finals in New York City. Find all details on the Siemens Competition Web site. Contact: Siemens Foundation, (877) 822-5233; email: [foundation.us@siemens.com](mailto:foundation.us@siemens.com)

**Deadline:** All competition materials received by 5:00 PM (EST), October 1, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/competition/>



□ Students or staff can test their “word-savvy” skills in the new **online Word Cup competition**. Launched by **eSpindle Learning** during summer 2007, the international, all-ages challenge tests **vocabulary and spelling skills**. Three rounds will be conducted, beginning September 8 (International Literacy Day) and ending with finals held the week of November 18, 2007 (International Education Week). Prizes will be awarded in four categories, with one participant named Champion of Champions. Registration is *free*, as are practice quizzes. Visit eSpindle’s Web site for more details on the competition.

**Deadline:** Rounds begin September 8, 2007

**Web:** [http://www.espindle.org/word\\_games.html](http://www.espindle.org/word_games.html)

□ The **WeatherBug 2007 Online Science and Programming Contest** features cool tools for students to use, and hot prizes for their schools to win. The contest, sponsored by **AWS Convergence Technologies’ WeatherBug** and its programming partners Leopard and Phrogram, highlights new programming tools that AWS added to its award-winning software curriculum. Entries will consist of original computer programs that students develop to display weather data. The grand prize, worth \$5,000, is a WeatherBug Tracking Station or Video Camera for the school. Two other prize packages will also be awarded. Teachers must submit the entries, and a school can submit multiple entries in two categories—K–6 and grades 7–12. Find more details, after September 1, on the firm’s Web site.

**Deadline:** Submit entries online between October 1 and November 16, 2007

**Web:** <http://weather.weatherbug.com/weather-education/07contest.htm>

□ The annual **Canon Envirothon competition** engages students in deepening their understanding of environmental science and the complexities of managing natural resources. Led by a teacher advisor, teams of high school students compete for scholarships and international recognition. The actual contest, held in early summer, tests students’ knowledge base and problem-solving skills in soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry and wildlife. Prior to the final contest, state contests are held. Teams, therefore, begin to “train” in the fall through field trips, expert speakers’ presentations, correlated study and more. Find details, *free* practice tests, and the topics and learning objective for 2008 on the firm’s Envirothon Web site.

**Deadlines:** Prepare in the fall for 2008 Envirothon, held July 28–August 3, 2008

**Web:** <http://www.envirothon.org/index.php>

□ Middle and high school writers should check into the **Electronically Published Internet Connection's (EPIC) annual New Voices writing competition**. In addition to encouraging reading and writing by such students, the competition is promoting use of e-books in public and private schools. Students may submit essays, short stories or poetry. Middle and high school students compete in separate categories. Prizes appeal to teens and include \$100, Palm handhelds and gift certificates for e-books. In 2006, 20 students won prizes; in 2007, 40 students won prizes. Visit the competition's Web site for more details and an entry form for the 2008 contest.

**Deadline:** 2008 contest begins August 1, 2007; see Web site for deadline

**Web:** <http://www.epicauthors.com/newvoices.html>

**Plus:** All 2007 winning entries were compiled into an anthology e-book: *EPIC New Voices 2007*, which is available to download for *free*.

□ The **National Geographic Bee** is a geography contest sponsored by the **National Geographic Society**. The Bee, held every year since 1989, is open to students in grades 4–8 in participating U.S. schools. The winner of each school competition takes a written test, and the top 100 in each state or territory qualify for the State Bee. Then the winners of the 55 state and territory Bees advance to the national level. At the national level, after another competition, the top 10 contestants qualify for the finals. The winner of the finals receives a \$25,000 scholarship; second place, a \$15,000 scholarship; and third place, a \$10,000 scholarship. There is a \$60 registration fee. Contact: National Geographic Bee, 1145 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 828-6659.

**Deadline:** Register for 2008 Bee by October 15, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/society/ingo/geobee/>

□ Cold cash and hot prizes are just two incentives for K–12 students to participate in the **Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards**. Small teams work with an adult coach to explore a technology's purpose and background and then project what that technology might be like in another 20 years. Entries for the competition consist of a written description and five graphics that simulate Web pages to convey the team's vision of that technology. Four grade ranges (K–3, 4–6, 7–9 and 10–12) are judged separately. Six regional winners in each category receive a notebook computer for their school, plus a special gift for the teams' students, teachers and mentors. Two national winners in each category receive U.S. Savings Bonds (\$10,000 for each student of first-place teams and \$5,000 for each student of second-place teams) and are honored at an awards gala in Washington, D.C. Entry kits for the 2008 program are available online and by request. Contact: ExploraVision Awards, (800) EXPLOR9.

**Deadline:** Entries due January 30, 2008

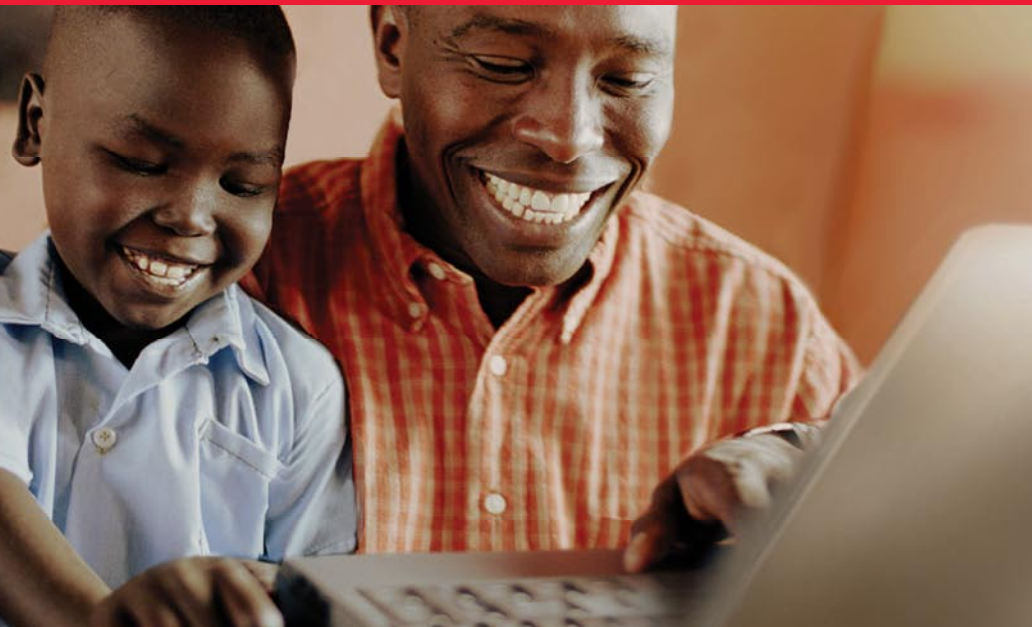
**Web:** <http://www.exploravision.org/>

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More than 55,000 free, ready-to-use, online education and literacy resources spanning every K-12 academic discipline.

[www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org)



□ **Letters About Literature (LAL)** is a national reading/writing contest for students in grades 4–12. To enter, students write an original, personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre or period explaining how that author’s work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. Three levels (grades 4–6, grades 7 and 8, grades 9–12) are available. Winners at both state and national levels, announced in the spring, receive cash awards. LAL is sponsored by the **Library of Congress’s Center for the Book and Target Stores**. Find all details on the center’s Web page, as well as a downloadable 36-page *Teacher’s Guide* to help integrate the contest’s tasks into the curriculum. Contact: LAL Project Director, email: [lal@epix.net](mailto:lal@epix.net)

**Deadlines:** Competitions begin each fall; see Web site for dates

**Web:** <http://www.loc.gov/letters/>

□ With its “Meth-Movie” contest for student filmmakers, **Taproot, Inc.** plans to shine a bright light on the dangers of methamphetamine. All U.S. students, regardless of age, are encouraged to participate in flexing their digital and creative skills. Students must follow the researched script; film a silent movie with action, gestures and expressions; add a narrator who tells the story; and showcase local music. They must also show their film to their local community on November 30, 2007, National Methamphetamine Awareness Day. After the local screening, they should mail the film to Taproot, Inc. to be eligible for prizes. Three student filmmakers will win cash, Apple computers, Final Cut professional editing software and a Panasonic mini DV camera. An entry fee (\$99) and registration are required. See the Web site for more details. Contact: Taproot, Inc., (952) 233-8826; email: [taproot@redwing.net](mailto:taproot@redwing.net)

**Deadlines:** Local screening on November 30, 2007; Taproot must receive the film (not just postmarked) by December 10, 2007. Prizes to be awarded in February 2008.

**Web:** <http://www.themethedemic.com/contest.html>

□ High school students are among those eligible to be on a team in the **FedEx Institute of Technology Business Plan Competition**. Teams must include at least one student (college or high school) who maintains a “pivotal role.” To enter, teams develop a business strategy for a marketable product or service with the goal of developing a new company. One winning team receives \$25,000 and other *free* professional services. Workshops on various aspects of starting and managing a business are also conducted. The objective is for applicants to form teams that share a common interest and acquire the skills, contacts and insight to help grow real businesses. Teams must register to participate. Contact: FedEx Institute of Technology, (901) 678-5105.

**Deadlines:** Register beginning in January, with entries due in spring; see Web site for 2008 dates

**Web:** <http://www.fedex.memphis.edu/BizPlan/>



□ The **National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)** sponsors the annual **NFIB Young Entrepreneur Awards**. To enter this scholarship contest, students must be nominated by an NFIB member and write an essay describing their entrepreneurial endeavors and future goals. Standardized test scores, grade point average and class rank are also considered. Scholarships for 2007 winners ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for the Entrepreneur of the Year. Major corporate sponsors are Visa USA, the Wells Fargo Foundation and Salesgenie.com. Contact: Chantel Bartlett, NFIB, (202) 314-2062; email: [chantal.bartlett@nfib.org](mailto:chantal.bartlett@nfib.org)

**Deadline:** Applications accepted on or about November 12, 2007 through February 11, 2008

**Web:** <http://www.nfib.com/page/nfibYoungEntrepreneurAward.html>

□ The annual **Invent-A-Toy World Games** national competition has kids create toys for other kids. Children as young as 5 and as old as 19 years are eligible. The sponsors are **By Kids For Kids Co. (BKFK)** and **Mattel**. A panel of industry and academic experts in patenting, marketing, licensing and merchandising evaluates the submissions, which are judged on marketability, market potential, originality and inventiveness. Up to 10 grand-prize winners receive a licensing contract, legal support to patent the invention in the winner's name (if patentable), expertise to bring the product to market and a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond. In addition, each winning child and one guardian receives an expenses-paid trip to attend the awards ceremony in New York City. Finally, winners are invited to identify an inspirational or supportive teacher to receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Up to 100 second-prize winners receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond. Check the Web site for all of the rules, details and deadlines. Contact: By Kids For Kids Invent-A-Toy Challenge; email: [inventatoy@bkfk.com](mailto:inventatoy@bkfk.com)

**Deadline:** In 2007, entries were due by April 13; see Web site for 2008 dates

**Web:** <http://www.bkfk.com/challenge>

□ Sponsored by the **Oracle Education Foundation**, the **ThinkQuest** competition offers a unique project-based learning experience to students and teachers around the globe. Students aged 9–19 form a team and recruit a teacher to act as coach. Student teams then create an innovative Web site on any topic within a broad range of educational categories. Diverse teams and globally relevant themes are encouraged. The top 10 teams in each age division receive laptop computers and a cash award for the coach's school. In addition, the top three teams in each age division travel to ThinkQuest Live, an educational “extravaganza” celebrating their achievements. A special award is also presented to the team best demonstrating global perspectives. Finally, everybody wins by having their Web sites published in the ThinkQuest Library. Find topic categories and ideas online, along with complete rules and evaluation criteria.

**Deadline:** Competition opens August 15, annually; entries due by mid-April 2008

**Web:** <http://www.thinkquest.org>

Now in its third year, the **2007–2008 International Virtual Science Fair Contest** gets students thinking and doing science. To enter, one simply creates a science fair project and documents the steps and outcome. Four age categories are available (K–2, grades 3–5, grades 6–8, grades 9–12) as well as college/home-school parent/classroom teacher. Each entry must, at the least, include hypothesis, experiment, materials used and conclusions. Older students and adults must supply more information. Sponsor **M-Zan Solutions** will award one first-prize winner and four honorable mentions in each of three categories: with the use of a kit, without the use of a kit and after reading the *Super Science Fair Projects* e-book. First-prize winners will receive an iPod or Magnacraft 50mm power telescope. Find more details on the contest’s Web site; full entry instructions are included in the printable entry form, which must be submitted by postal mail. Contact: Madeline Binder, c/o M-Zan Solutions, 1860 Sherman Avenue, Suite 2 NW, Evanston, IL 60201; email: [thegoodlife@comcast.net](mailto:thegoodlife@comcast.net)

**Deadline:** Submit entries September 15, 2007 through May 31, 2008

**Web:** <http://www.super-science-fair-projects.com/science-fair-contest.html>

The **BR!CK Award** celebrates young people who strive to make the world better. By celebrating these young stars of social change, the BR!CK Award is creating a new breed of role models. With finals now televised on the *CW Network*, the award spotlights young leaders and their work. Sponsor **Do Something.org** accepts applications from citizens and permanent residents of the U.S. and Canada. A total of 12 winners will each receive \$10,000; four of the 12 will receive a Golden Br!ck, as voted by peers, and an additional \$15,000. Applicants must submit a project profile, answer three essay questions that demonstrate the benefits of the project, and more. Finalists must submit a one-minute video. Visit the Web site for details or email: [brick@dosomething.org](mailto:brick@dosomething.org)

**Deadline:** December 1, 2007

**Web:** <http://www.dosomething.org/brick>

The **Team America Rocketry Challenge** encourages aspiring engineers and astronauts in grades 7–12 to build and fly a handmade rocket. The goal is for the rocket to reach 850 feet in altitude and to fly for 45 seconds. Rockets will also carry a raw-egg payload that must return to the ground *un-cracked* to qualify as a valid flight. The annual contest is sponsored by **Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)** and the **National Association of Rocketry**, along with NASA and the American Association of Physics Teachers. In late spring, the top 100 qualifying teams launch their rockets in a fly-off, vying for \$60,000 worth of scholarships and other prizes. Students must register to participate. Visit the contest’s Web site for information about 2008 deadlines and rules.

**Deadlines:** See Web site for 2008 dates

**Web:** <http://www.rocketcontest.org>



□ Students tackle tough issues in the **Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP)**. To compete, students use a six-step model to explore problems and then propose workable solutions. Previous contest topics included body enhancement, simulation technology, neurotechnology and debt in developing countries. Either teams or individuals may participate in three grade-level divisions. A hands-on, action-based component is for classroom use by teams or individuals. A community-based component is suited only for teams. Teachers may also integrate the problem-solving lessons without joining the contest. Finally, student writers may submit a futuristic short story on the year's topics to win prizes. FPSP has affiliates in 40 states; students in other locales may participate through a mentoring program. Use the online FPSP Affiliate Director Locator to inquire about local deadlines. The top-scoring teams are invited to affiliate bowls each spring, with the winners of those contests advancing to the international competition. See the Web site for more details and to vote on topics for the 2008–2009 contest. Contact: Future Problem Solving Program, (800) 256-1499; email: [mail@fjsp.org](mailto:mail@fjsp.org)

**Deadlines:** Vary by state; find Affiliate Directors for dates and details by clicking on Affiliate Programs

**Web:** <http://www.fjsp.org/>

□ High school girls and boys who excel in math and science may win a scholarship from the **Siemens Foundation**. The **Siemens Award for Advanced Placement (AP)** provides \$2,000 scholarships to students from each of the 50 states who have earned the “greatest number of AP grades of 5 in eight exams.” Moreover, each state potentially has two winners, one male and one female. Two additional national winners (one male, one female) also receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. The eligible AP exams are Biology, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science AB, Environmental Science, Physics C: Mechanics, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, and Statistics. There is no application for this award; by taking AP exams, a student becomes eligible. The College Board administers the program; for questions, call (800) 626-9795 x5849.

**Deadline:** Ongoing program, with AP exams administered throughout the school year

**Web:** <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/awards/>

□ The **Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation (CKSF)** hosts monthly **High School Internet Challenges**. Open to every U.S. high school student, the tournament tests both academic and common knowledge. Students automatically become part of their school's team when they register with CKSF. Teams compete each month to represent their state at the national level and, subsequently, possibly earn a spot in April's Grand National Championship. The highest scoring individuals can earn \$250 and \$500 scholarships.

**Deadlines:** Monthly for state contests

**Web:** <http://www.cksf.org/index.cfm?Page=FindScholarships&Subpage=HSAcademicSeries>



# Professional Development

## TARGETED TECH TRAINING

Adobe provides numerous ways to learn how to use its packages in schools. These include **workshops, online seminars, videos, books, instructor-led training** and **online courses** from third parties. K–12 Staff Development Workshops, for example, include *free* hands-on materials that enable K–12 schools and districts to deliver their own inservice workshops. *Free*, year-long **Curriculum Guides** are another highlight, and in 2007, Adobe released one for its Creative Suite 3 (CS3). Also new is the **Adobe Digital School Collection**, a bundle of four applications (Photoshop, Premiere, Contribute and Acrobat Professional) plus a Teacher Resource CD with lesson plans, tutorials, tips, videos and images. Visit Adobe’s Professional Development and K–12 Education Web pages for all the details on these, and other, opportunities.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, administrators and staff

**Costs:** Workshops and seminars are *free*; self-paced online and instructor-led courses range from \$99 to \$399 for one year.

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Credits:** May earn continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development points (PDPs)

**Web:** <http://www.adobe.com/resources/education/training/>

**Web:** <http://www.adobe.com/education/k12/index.html>

At D-LinkTV, online videos and MP3 podcasts teach about various network components and applications. This site from **D-Link** has a series of Q&A episodes, for example, in which regular people ask technical questions that D-Link’s staff answers. Topics cover current technology, such as routers, VoIP and wireless, as well as emerging technology, such as Power over Ethernet.

**Suits:** K–12 technology staff and planners

**Costs:** *Free*

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Web:** <http://www.dlinktv.com/>

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**Attention Web Browsers:** Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



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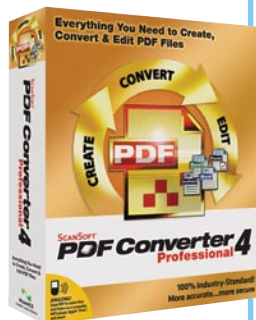
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**Atomic Learning** adds 500 new **tutorials** every six weeks to its library of Web-based training on how to use popular software packages. Thus, individual subscribers can be assured that the latest programs and products are always covered. Currently, the award-winning library encompasses more than 30,000 **Flash-based tutorials** on more than 110 of the most popular software programs for schools, businesses and people. Further, in June 2007, the site's 200-plus technology-based resources for the classroom was aligned to state K–12 standards, and a new search option added for all subscribers. Also launched in 2007 was **Atomic Training**, which pairs Web-based hosting of digital content with a customizable training platform. Designed for K–12 and higher education institutions, the platform is a secure online environment that makes it easy to organize and share any type of digital media or content among a community of educators, staff and learners. Atomic Learning hosts all material, categories and content are completely customizable, and tracking functions cover individual and aggregate usage.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, students, administrators and support staff

**Costs:** One-year individual subscriptions are \$80, with volume discounts for schools or groups; contact the firm for pricing on Atomic Training

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Web:** <http://www.atomiclearning.com>

**Plus:** Download a *free* **Professional Development eBook** for tips on incorporating Web-based software training into successful just-in-time learning programs for teachers and staff.

Three **video tutorials on networking** are among the options under the **Learning Center** tab on the **Linksys** Web site. The titles are (1) Introduction, (2) Basics of Network Security and (3) Advanced Networking Topics. These are meaty classes, not short movies. The classes are presented by experts with accompanying PowerPoint slides and other resources. Other helpful resources under the tab include a glossary, networking tips and training materials suited for nontechnical staff.

**Suits:** K–12 technology staff, administrators and teachers

**Costs:** *Free*

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Web:** <http://www.linksys.com/>

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**Respond and win an HP Photosmart R927 digital camera.**

See back cover for details.

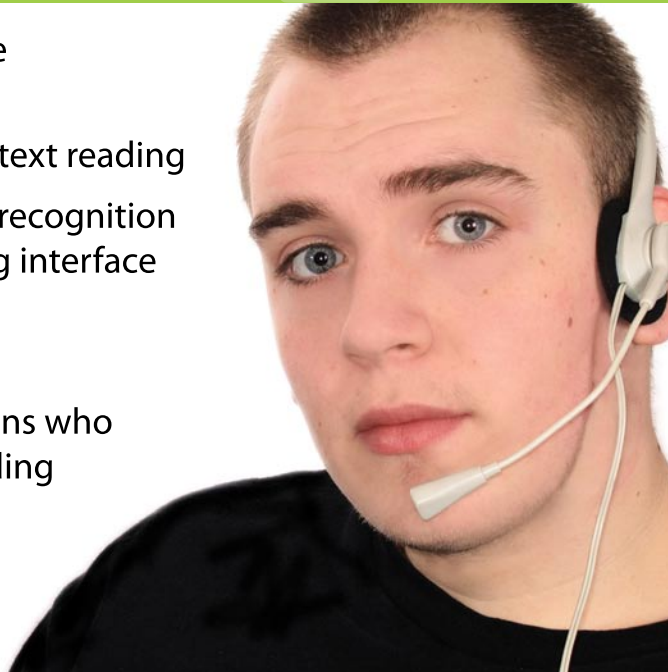


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Learn how to integrate digital arts projects into curricula via a **Digital Arts Alliance Professional Development Residency**. These arts include student-created films, music, animations, Web sites and more. The two- or three-day workshops for teachers of all subjects offer “hands-on project exploration,” collaboration and brainstorming with peers and trainers, plus practical training in digital-arts software. No special computer or software experience is required. Takeaways include self-produced digital creations, individual unit plans and the library of district-appropriate unit plans that participants designed with their peers. Also available from the alliance are **Student Residencies**, for both middle school and high schools, in which a team brings the technology, trainers and hands-on workshop experiences right to students in their classrooms. See the Web site for more details on all Residency programs. The alliance is managed and funded by the **Pearson Foundation**. Partners include **Pearson Education, Nokia, Adobe, ISTE, American Red Cross, Peachpit Press, Phi Delta Kappa** and others.

**Suits:** Grades 7–12 teachers and students

**Costs:** Residencies are *free*, including all technology and curriculum

**Credits:** May earn continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development points (PDPs)

**Locations & Dates:** On-site, as arranged

**Web:** [http://www.digitalartsalliance.org/residency\\_prodev.htm](http://www.digitalartsalliance.org/residency_prodev.htm)

**NETGEAR’s Learning Web pages** provide both **technical training** materials and broader **planning tutorials** on networking. Get up to speed on the firm’s “smart stackable” switches, ProSafe line for enterprises or Layer 3 switching via Webinars, for example. The Business Wireless tutorial reviews the factors and options to consider and, despite its name, matches many K–12 environments. Also, check out the site’s **Innovations blog** (under the Community tab) for commentary and insights on what the future holds for networking.

**Suits:** K–12 technology staff

**Costs:** *Free*

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Web:** <http://www.netgear.com/Learning.aspx>

**Attention Web Browsers:** Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



□ At this plain-looking **Microsoft Education** Web page, **product and technology tutorials** are the focus. Other hotlinks lead to *free* learning tools, how-to articles, lesson plans and more. Plus, special **Guides for Educators** delve into the details of using accessible technology, a Tablet PC, digital media and more. For ongoing professional development, consider joining a virtual learning community of peers. The **Microsoft Innovative Teachers** program, for example, has discipline-specific “neighborhoods” in its online community; moreover, members receive information on *free* resources and tools in a monthly newsletter. Also visit the new **Pre-Collegiate Faculty Connection**. Initially focusing on grades 7–12 math, computer science and technology teachers, the site features *free* software, *free* curricula for classrooms, relevant news, training articles, plus a forum to connect with peers.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, technology staff and library media specialists

**Costs:** *Free*

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Credits:** May earn professional development points (PDPs) or certificates

**Web:** <http://www.microsoft.com/Education/Tutorials.mspix>

**Web:** <http://www.microsoft.com/education/facultyconnection/lb/default.aspx>

**Plus:** There’s more to being a good teacher or school leader than having academic or technical skills. That’s what the all-new **Education Competencies** site helps school leaders to identify and then incorporate into their inservice and hiring practices. Visit the site to learn about the “attributes, behaviors, areas of knowledge, skills and abilities” needed to be a successful teacher or administrator. A downloadable, and *free*, Education Competency Wheel is the featured tool.

**Web:** <http://www.microsoft.com/education/competencies/default.mspix>

□ It’s only natural that **Nuance Communications**—which offers Dragon NaturallySpeaking and other speech-enabled software—would sponsor **Coffee Talk Webinars**. This series of **online, on-demand presentations** are designed to take about as long as a cup of coffee lasts, 7 to 10 minutes. The overviews on the firm’s products cover their use in specific environments, including education. Find all Webinars, and other technology training resources, under the site’s News tab.

**Suits:** K–12 technology staff, administrators and teachers

**Costs:** *Free*

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Web:** <http://www.nuance.com/news/webinars/>

**Riverdeep** is known for its ever-larger array of educational software favorites, acquiring Edmark, The Learning Company and Broderbund along the way. Its own Destination product family covers preK–3 literacy, math, reading and more, with Destination Success serving as a complete teaching, learning and assessment platform. In 2007, Riverdeep acquired educational publisher Houghton Mifflin, and the overall entity is now known as **HM Rivergroup**. Technology training available to educators from this Ireland-based firm includes **Destination Success Professional Development**. It suits whole schools or districts.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, support staff and paraprofessionals

**Costs:** Vary; contact Riverdeep, (888) 242-6747; email: [info@riverdeep.net](mailto:info@riverdeep.net)

**Credits:** May earn continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development points (PDPs)

**Web:** <http://www.riverdeep.net/>

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) sponsors the largest national conference for educational technology, NECC. Further, ISTE's **Professional Development Services** offer multiple-day **institutes**, year-round **workshops** for teachers and district trainers, a **Technology Leadership Program for administrators** and more. The ISTE Institute: Leading with NETS, for example, helps teachers understand the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) and apply new technology. In Assessment and Technology Training, educators learn and apply best practices in traditional, alternative and technology-supported assessment. One new offering is **Implications Wheel Facilitation**, in which ISTE helps school or district decision makers employ a strategic-exploration tool. Also new is a **Graduate Certificate in School Administration and Supervision**, offered in partnership with Johns Hopkins University. For school and district administrators, the year-long program meets the National Educational Technology Standards for Administrators (NETS•A). Finally, ISTE's **Bookstore** is another source of timely, peer-developed professional development.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, administrators, school and district leaders, and technology specialists

**Costs:** Vary; contact ISTE Professional Development Services, (541) 434-8919; email: [profdev@iste.org](mailto:profdev@iste.org)

**Locations & Dates:** As arranged

**Credits:** May earn continuing education units (CEUs), professional development points (PDPs), graduate credits or degrees, or certificates

**Web:** <http://www.iste.org/>

[Template.cfm?Section=Professional\\_Development](http://www.iste.org/Template.cfm?Section=Professional_Development)

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K–12 teachers who use **Promethean’s** digital whiteboards, tablets and companion software will want to explore the firm’s **training options**. *Free* courses for Activprimary (for elementary grades) and Activstudio (for middle and high school levels) cover foundation skills. Moreover, certificates are awarded upon completion. Other certificate-granting courses cover Advanced Skills for teachers (Level 1), Level 2 skills for Curriculum Developers and Level 3 courses for Training & Resource Developers. Some courses are moderated; face-to-face training is also available.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, instructional technology staff and trainers

**Costs:** Vary; see order form for pricing; Level 1 courses are *free*

**Locations & Dates:** Online, or as scheduled

**Credits:** May earn professional development points (PDPs) and certifications

**Web:** <http://prometheanlearning.com/us/>

**Plus:** For curriculum-ready **lesson plans** and **resources**, visit **Promethean Planet**. Macintosh users should visit to download new software.

**Web:** <http://www.prometheanplanet.com/>

## CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Looking to earn a **Technology Education degree**? A Web page from the **International Technology Education Association (ITEA)** has a hotlinked list of 50 institutions that offer such a degree. ITEA is a professional association for “technology, innovation, design and engineering educators.” In K–12, the ITEA promotes a “technology education” problem-based curriculum that integrates math, science and technology concepts and skills. The association’s professional development arm is the **Center to Advance the Teaching of Technology & Science (CATTS)**. CATTS offers workshops to K–12 educators on Engineering by Design, a standards-based model for technological literacy. ITEA-CATTS also partners with the National Aeronautical and Space Association (NASA) to provide professional development to teachers planning class participation in “design challenges” correlated to future NASA space missions.

**Suits:** K–12 math, science and technology teachers

**Costs:** Vary; see Web site for upcoming workshops

**Credits:** Master’s and doctoral degrees, and various certifications; workshops may earn continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development points (PDPs)

**Locations & Dates:** As arranged

**Web:** <http://www.iteaconnect.org/Resources/institutionalmembers.htm>

**Web:** <http://www.iteaconnect.org/EbD/CATTS/catts.htm>

**Web:** <http://www.iteaconnect.org/EbDIHE/workshops.htm>



**PBS TeacherLine**, created in 2000, offers research-based professional development for preK–12 teachers that combines the riches of PBS programming with peer interaction, personal reflection and expert knowledge. The facilitated courses cover **math, reading, language arts, instructional technology, science and instructional strategies**. Participants use discussion boards, live chat, My Workspace, My Journal and more. In July 2007, selected **Teachers’ Domain** courses in **physical, life and earth sciences** were added to the TeacherLine family. Produced by the Boston PBS station’s **WGBH Educational Foundation**, Teachers’ Domain courses fold content from award-winning shows like *NOVA* and *A Science Odyssey* into compelling and standards-based science instruction for all grades. New in 2007 is the **Certificate of Proficiency Capstone Program**, by PBS TeacherLine and the **International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)**.

**Suits:** preK–12 teachers and instructional technology staff

**Costs:** \$300–\$450, per course, generally; see online catalog for Capstone program pricing and for special discounts or promotions

**Locations & Dates:** Online, as scheduled

**Credits:** May earn continuing education units (CEUs), professional development points (PDPs) or Certificates; graduate credits may also be available, for extra fee

**Web:** <http://teacherline.pbs.org/teacherline/>

**Nova Southeastern University’s** Fischler School of Education and Human Services offers a Master of Science in Education degree with a **specialization in educational technology**. It’s offered through Nova’s National Graduate Teacher Education Program (NGTE). Students entering this specialization are assigned to a cluster/cohort group and take two courses per term. The program is for K–12 educators “who seek experience to fill the expanding need for innovators in the use of new technologies at regional, district or school center levels.” NGTE programs are aligned with appropriate national and professional standards.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers

**Cost:** Per credit hour; see Web site for details.

**Location:** Online, as scheduled

**Web:** [http://www.schoolfed.nova.edu/gtep/programoutline/gtep\\_ngte.html](http://www.schoolfed.nova.edu/gtep/programoutline/gtep_ngte.html)

**Respond and win an HP Photosmart R927 digital camera.**

See back cover for details.



**PBS TeacherLine** has created a new subscription-based product called **Peer Connection**. It provides detailed pointers for coaches: how to be an effective “guide on the side” and how to build a rich community for adult learners. Peer Connection supports face-to-face, online and blended coaching models. An embedded communication system, makes it easy to find and forward specific resources to one or more teachers. Teachers can also rate, tag and comment on any resource. Initially, content focuses on middle school math and K–8 reading and language arts, but other subjects and grade levels will follow.

**Suits:** K–8 teacher trainers, mentors and instructional coaches; other grades to follow

**Costs:** \$2,495 per year per school building; volume discounts are available

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime; launches in September 2007

**Web:** <http://teacherline.pbs.org/teacherlinepeerconnection/>

**Solution Tree** offers a new inservice video collection for K–12 schools, *The Power of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at Work: Bringing the Big Ideas to Life*. These four videos visit eight PLC schools, exploring how a focus on learning, collaboration and results has radically improved student learning. Also included is supporting commentary from education experts. The set has four VHS cassettes, one DVD and a 70-page facilitator’s guide. Administrators and team leaders can present the materials in four half-day workshops. An online PLC Distance Learning Course is also available.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, administrators and superintendents

**Costs:** \$595 for PLC video collection, \$349 for PLC online course

**Credits:** May earn continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development points (PDPs)

**Web:** <http://www.solution-tree.com>

**WIDE World** is an online distance learning initiative for K–12 teachers and administrators from the **Harvard Graduate School of Education**. These professional development programs are based on Teaching for Understanding, a research-based and classroom-tested framework that builds a learner’s ability to apply knowledge. Courses cover technology integration, multiple intelligences, differentiated instruction and subject-based topics.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers and administrators

**Costs:** \$999 per individual, \$799 per member for 3- to 5-person teams for Data Wise courses; other course fees vary

**Locations & Dates:** Online, or as arranged; registration for next two rounds of courses due by September 7, 2007 and January 24, 2008

**Credits:** May earn continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development points (PDPs); graduate credits may also be available

**Web:** <http://wideworld.pz.harvard.edu/>

Continued on page 44 ➔



# It's always a good time to upgrade.

\$499.99 - \$125 instant savings =

**\$374<sup>991</sup>** CDWG 963242



**\$125 instant savings**

## HP Color LaserJet® 2605dn Printer

Network- and duplex-ready, workgroup color laser printer

- Print speed: up to 12 ppm black, 10 ppm color
- Print resolution: 600 x 600 dpi with HP ImageREt 2400
- Duty cycle: 35,000 pages per month
- USB 2.0 and Ethernet ports

\$699.99 - \$150 instant savings =

**\$549<sup>992</sup>**

CDWG 844592



**\$150 instant savings**

## HP Color LaserJet 3600n Printer

Network-ready, color laser printer

- Print speed: up to 17 ppm black and color
- Print resolution: 600 x 600 dpi with HP ImageREt 3600
- Duty cycle: 50,000 pages per month
- USB 2.0 and Ethernet ports

\$1099.99 - \$100 instant savings =

**\$999<sup>992</sup>**

CDWG 1059022



**\$100 instant savings**

## HP Color LaserJet CP4005n Printer

Network-ready, color laser printer

- Print speed: up to 30 ppm black, 25 ppm color
- Print resolution: 600 x 600 dpi with HP ImageREt 3600
- Duty cycle: 80,000 pages per month
- USB 2.0 and Ethernet ports



<sup>1</sup>After instant savings (offer valid through 9/15/07 or while supplies last)  
<sup>2</sup>After instant savings (offer valid through 10/31/07 or while supplies last)



□ **Drexel University Online** serves K–12 teachers’ needs for professional development that addresses 21st century skills and schools. For example, Drexel’s newest offering is a **Master’s Degree in Learning Technologies**. The 45-credit program consists of four constructs: national and state technology standards and 21st century skills, collaborative leadership, design perspective and digital media skill set, and research projects. Program graduates will be fully prepared to obtain positions as a technology coach, instructional design leader, learning coordinator, director of integrated technology and more. Educators may also earn an **Instructional Technology Specialist Certificate** while pursuing this degree.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers and instructional technology specialists

**Costs:** A special discounted rate of \$627 per credit for the 2007–08 academic year

**Locations & Dates:** Online; applications due September 7, 2007 (Fall 2007 term), December 10, 2007 (Winter 2008 term) and March 14, 2008 (Spring 2008 term)

**Credits:** Master’s degree and certificate

**Web:** <http://www.drexel.com/online-degrees/education-degrees/ms-learningtech/index.aspx>

□ The **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**—and nearly 120 universities worldwide—provide *free* access to their course content through the Web. By the end of 2007, the contents of **all 1,800 MIT courses** will be available online to anyone, anywhere in the world via **MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW)**. There is no need to register for classes—just log on and learn! In addition, MIT OCW now offers *free* access to a selection of video and audio lectures, as well as to a collection of additional resources, contributed by MIT faculty.

**Suits:** K–12 teachers, administrators, support staff and others

**Costs:** *Free*

**Locations & Dates:** Online, anytime

**Credits:** Not available for *free* courses

**Web:** <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/index.htm>

**Plus:** The **Open Courseware Consortium (OCC)** includes among its U.S. members Tufts, Johns Hopkins, Michigan State, Michigan, Notre Dame and Utah State universities. Internationally, members include groups of universities in China, Japan and Spain. Visit the OCC’s Web site to learn about the courses and continuing education opportunities.

**Web:** <http://www.ocwconsortium.org>

**Attention Web Browsers:** Web site addresses do change periodically. If you have difficulty connecting, use a search engine to get an updated address. These sites are recommended by teachers and editors for educational value, but all content and associated links are the domain of the site sponsor.



# Prepare to make an impact.



\$599.99 - \$50 instant savings =

**\$549<sup>99</sup>**<sup>1</sup>

CDWG 789886

**EPSON**  
EXCEED YOUR VISION



**\$50 instant savings**

**Epson® AcuLaser® CX11NF**

Color laser printer, copier, fax and scanner

- Print and copy speed: up to 25 ppm black, 5 ppm color
- First print out in under nine seconds black, 17 seconds color
- Print resolution: 2400 x 1600 dpi
- 50-sheet Automatic Document Feeder (ADF) supports paper up to 8.5" x 14"
- USB 2.0 and Ethernet ports

<sup>1</sup>After instant savings (offer valid while supplies last)

**LEXMARK**

**\$399<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 978903

**Lexmark™ X342n MFP**

Monochrome laser printer, copier, fax and color scanner

- Print speed: up to 27 ppm
- Print resolution: 600 x 600 dpi
- Duty cycle: 15,000 pages per month
- USB and Ethernet ports



**\$399<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 1166007



**Canon imageCLASS® MF4690  
Laser Multifunction**

Network- and duplex-ready, monochrome laser  
printer, copier, fax and color scanner

- Print and copy speed: up to 21 ppm
- Color scan resolution: 9600 dpi interpolated
- Scans documents to USB drive
- Super G3 (33.6Kbps) fax
- USB 2.0 and Ethernet ports

**Canon**



## Rich Resources for 21st Century Skills

Cool and blue, the **21st Century Connections** Web site dives in to explore how technology inspires digital creativity and literacy in K–12 classrooms. Delivering the latest news, research, resources, professional development, success stories and more, this new Web site links students, teachers, staff and industry leaders under a common goal: to equip all students with 21st century competencies. Hosted by *Technology & Learning/techlearning.com*, the site is supported by **Lenovo, Intel, Adobe** and **Futurekids**.

**Web:** <http://www.21centuryconnections.com/>

Suiting the needs of K–12 teachers, **wikispaces** delivers private and advertising-free wikis. Further, **Tangient LLC** has set aside **100,000 free wikis just for educators**. Sign up at the firm’s Web site.

**Web:** <http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K>

ISTE’s **2007 National Educational Technology Standards for Students: The Next Generation** emphasizes on “pushing minds” versus “pushing buttons.” The new standards identify six areas as key for success in the 21st century: creativity and innovation; communication and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving and decision making; digital citizenship; and technology operations and concepts.

**Web:** [http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NETS/NETS\\_Refresh\\_Forum/NETS\\_for\\_Students\\_2007.pdf](http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NETS/NETS_Refresh_Forum/NETS_for_Students_2007.pdf)

What’s more 21st century than a career in network administration? **3Com’s NetPrep program** is a vendor- and platform-neutral turnkey solution. Thus, graduates gain multivendor, cross-platform skills that apply to multiple industry certifications. High schools can offer this **IT curriculum**, developed by **WestNet Learning Technologies**, by individual course or course sequences. Browse the curriculum at this **WestNet Web page**. For full details, send an email to [education@3com.com](mailto:education@3com.com)

**Web:** [http://www.3com.com/solutions/en\\_US/education/netprep/netprep.html](http://www.3com.com/solutions/en_US/education/netprep/netprep.html)

**Web:** <http://store.westnetinc.com/mkt/tabs/netprep.asp>

Podcast creation integrates numerous digital and communications skills. Thus, K–12 teachers might want to check out, for themselves or their students, the **online podcasting studio** of **PodcastPeople**. A robust suite of Web-based tools for audio, video, text and more, features built-in spam blocking and hosts the podcasts. The *free* version, which allows multiple authors, especially suits student-team and classroom-based projects.

**Web:** <http://podcastpeople.com/faq>



□ Social networking, popularized by Facebook, need not be trivial. **Classroom 2.0**, for example, is a **social networking site for teachers interested in Web 2.0**. More broadly, learning more from their peers about the “practical application of computer technology” for teaching and professional development is what draws K–12 educators to this site.  
**Web:** <http://classroom20.ning.com/>

□ The Intel-sponsored **K–12 Computing Blueprint** Web site is not to be missed. It is possibly *the* most comprehensive compendium of resources for implementing one-to-one computing. The site is broken down according to essential components of the blueprint: Leadership, Funding, Infrastructure, Professional Development, Curriculum and Results. Each page of the site drills deeper into all aspects of these topics.

**Web:** <http://www.k12blueprint.com/k12/blueprint/index.php?menu=index>

□ In July 2007, Microsoft updated its **Microsoft Robotics Studio software** to version 1.5. Available for *free* to teachers, students and other noncommercial users, the software crosses many disciplines to excite and inspire students. Find tutorials, a blog and other support resources at the main Robotics Studio page. Download the tool from the Focus On box, Downloads item.

**Web:** <http://msdn.microsoft.com/robotics/>

## New Technology for Today's Challenges.

The #1 phonics program...

**Explode The Code**<sup>®</sup>  
 now in a powerful online format!

Introducing...  
**FTC**  
 OnLine

## Write- On Handwriting

Interactive, multisensory handwriting  
 that builds motor memory and  
 handwriting fluency

Assistive  
 Technology

For more information,  
 visit [epsbooks.com/BigDeal](http://epsbooks.com/BigDeal).




**EPS**<sup>®</sup>  
 EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE  
 Experts in Intervention for Over 50 Years  
 800.225.5750

Supported by more than 30 companies, the nonprofit **Partnership for 21st Century Skills** offers guidance on how to define, teach and assess new-century skills. Recently, six states have committed to its **four-element Framework** with statewide initiatives, for example, and their 2007 reports are posted here. A uniquely useful highlight is **Assess 21**, a robust and searchable **Web-based library of assessments**, both paper and electronic, for measuring students' skills in the areas identified by the framework. Numerous other resources, publications and guides are available as well.

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

At **Ning**, any one can create a **customized social network**. Start one for a class, a cadre of like-minded teachers, or an entire school. The possibilities are limitless.

**Web:** <http://www.ning.com>

QuarkXPress, an industry-standard layout program for 20th century print publications, now has a helper (add-on) for the 21st century. With Quark Interactive Designer, K–12 students and staff can create rich, interactive online content, without programming within QuarkXPress 7's layout environment. Further, the program outputs in print, Web or Flash (SWF) formats. Quark offers **Quark Interactive Designer**—for *no charge*—to qualified education users of QuarkXPress 7.

**Web:** <http://www.quark.com/education/quid.html>

**Plus:** Also *free* to all educators teaching QuarkXPress 7 is a new, comprehensive **QuarkXPress Curriculum Kit**, with syllabus samples, content and exercises to use in class and for homework, video training modules and more.

**Web:** [http://www.quark.com/education/curriculum\\_kit/](http://www.quark.com/education/curriculum_kit/)

**Mashup Camp** bills itself as “the unconference for the uncomputer.” At this now annual gathering, mashup developers meet face to face, create and collaborate—and have a Best Mashup Contest! Visit the Mashup Camp blog for **tutorials on mashup tools**. Browse mashups by Categories, read blogs from campers, visit a mashup directory and more.

**Web:** <http://blog.mashupcamp.com/>

It's been identified as a new-century skill for students, but just what is media literacy? Review the new **Core Principles for Media Literacy Education**, from the **Alliance for a Media Literate America**. Then join a dialogue that aims to develop “clear, measurable outcomes, benchmarks (and eventually) standards.”

**Web:** <http://www.amlainfo.org/home/resources>

Continued on page 50 ➡



# Maximize your productivity.

HP Smart Buy **\$190 instant savings**

## HP Compaq Business Desktop dx2300

Practical features

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 641 (3.20GHz)
- Memory: 1GB
- 80GB SATA hard drive
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive
- Windows® XP Professional

**\$568<sup>57</sup>1**  
CDWG 1162503



HP Smart Buy **\$215 instant savings**

## HP Compaq Business Desktop dc5700

Equipped with Energy Star 4.0

- Intel® Core™ 2 Duo Processor E4300 (1.86GHz)
- Memory: 1GB
- 80GB SATA hard drive
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive
- Windows® XP Professional

**\$758<sup>09</sup>1**  
CDWG 1217851



Featuring Intel®  
vPro™ Platform Technology

HP Smart Buy **\$274 instant savings**

## HP Compaq Business Desktop dc7700p

Optimized with RAID 1 Configuration

- Intel® Core™ 2 Duo Processor E6300 (1.86GHz)
- Memory: 2GB
- 160GB SATA hard drive
- DVD±RW (±R DL) drive
- Windows® XP Professional

**\$1097<sup>24</sup>1**  
CDWG 121984



<sup>1</sup>After HP Smart Buy instant savings; savings may vary based on channel and/or direct standard pricing; available as open market purchases only; call your CDW•G account manager for details



Traditional scientific inquiry meets new-century mentoring at **PlantingScience**. This Web site from the **Botanical Society of America** brings grades 7–16 students and working scientists together. Assisted by the site’s online collaboration tools and resources, students engage in hands-on plant investigations with peers and scientist mentors. New topics and functionality will be added for inquiry-based projects in fall 2007; archives of past projects are also available.

**Web:** <http://www.plantingscience.org/index.php>

Under the motto “set learning free,” **Wikiversity** delivers both **content** and **community** to teachers and learners. Its user contributed and user edited materials serve self-study and in-class needs for many grade levels and subjects. Its learning communities provide support, advice, ideas and more. Also from the nonprofit **Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.** is **Wikibooks** for open-content textbooks.

**Web:** [http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Main\\_Page](http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Main_Page)

**Web:** [http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Get students thinking about solving *real*, real-world problems. By tuning into the **Social Innovation Conversations podcasting channel**, students will hear experts’ “multi-stakeholder perspective” on various “grand challenges and social issues.” The channel is an initiative of the **Stanford Graduate School of Business**.

**Web:** <http://www.siconversations.org/>

Cruise over to **Cisco Networking Academy (CCNA)** to celebrate its 10-year anniversary. New **CCNA Curricula** include **Exploration and Discovery modules**, for example. Perhaps more interesting is just who CCNA students are and what they are doing around the world. Take a global journey with some of these students at their multimedia blog, **NetSpaceLive**. Plus, to help bring more women into the IT fields, in 2000 Cisco launched the **Gender Initiative** project, targeting high school girls. Its Web page offers correlated materials, tools, best practices, success stories and profiles of role models to help close this critical gender gap.

**Web:** <http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/index.html>

**Web:** <http://www.netspacelive.com/>

**Web:** [http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/digital\\_divide/gender/index.html](http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/digital_divide/gender/index.html)

**Project Look Sharp**, from Ithaca College, offers teaching materials and student resources on **media literacy**, evaluating the credibility of Web sites and more. Technical strategies that provide clues about Web sites, lesson plan ideas, related research and other resources suit the needs of K–12 teachers, school staff, students, parents and administrators.

**Web:** [http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/resources\\_internetsites.php](http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/resources_internetsites.php)



□ Think of it as “YouTube for educators.” The Carnegie Foundation’s **Gallery of Teaching & Learning** delivers preK–12 professional development using online video and audio clips taken straight from colleagues’ classrooms. Search or simply browse the Collections and Exhibitions, which cover how and what skills to teach to 21st century students. The site also features scholarly research and grant winners’ final reports. For example, **Hewlett-Packard’s** annual Technology for Teaching grantees post their materials here.

**Web:** <http://gallery.carnegiefoundation.org>

□ The **Google Apps Education Edition** functions, essentially, as an independent platform. This Web-based solution is *free* to schools and hosted by **Google**. New features include Gmail with 2GB inboxes, shared calendaring and customizable start pages. Schools can easily determine who can access which features and functions for security and other needs. The star applications remain **Google Docs & Spreadsheets**. Find more information online; send questions by email to [education-solutions@google.com](mailto:education-solutions@google.com)

**Web:** <http://www.google.com/aledu>

□ From **Autodesk’s** new online **Student Engineering & Design Community**, teachers can download *free* student editions of nine different Autodesk software programs. The correlated **2008 Education Curriculum** teaches students to use these real-world tools for project-based learning in areas such as gaming, civil engineering and architecture. Two “tracks” address the separate needs of middle schools and high schools. As an online community, members also provide homework help, answer questions, have discussions with peers and more. Learn more, and sign up for *free*, at the Community’s Welcome page.

**Web:** <http://www.autodesk.com/school>

□ Transport students to a 3-D world bursting with action—and algebra! Have them enter **DimensionM**, a unique and award-winning “immersive” educational video game series. The new **Evolver** series covers **algebra** and **pre-algebra** topics, all correlated to standards. In addition to the Singleplayer version, a Multiplayer version revs up motivation as student teams compete. Students must complete missions requiring strategy, math skills and maze navigation in a 3-D, **first-person game environment**. Further, comprehensive resources and progress tracking helps teachers support each student’s specific needs. Learn more at the DimensionM Web site or download *free*, playable demos from **Tabula Digita’s** Web site.

**Web:** <http://www.dimensionm.com>

**Web:** <http://www.tabuladigita.com>

**Respond and win an HP Photosmart R927 digital camera.**

See back cover for details.

## Free and Inexpensive Finds

**Inspiration Software** turns 25 this year! To celebrate, the firm is offering a *free, limited-edition 25th Anniversary Evaluation CD*. New to this celebratory CD are 60-plus lesson plans, templates and exemplars aligned to standards; quick reference cards for InspireData, teaching data literacy through dynamic inquiry and visualization; and informative briefs on how to use graphic organizers with different teaching strategies. The CD also contains *30-day, free trials* for the firm's award-winning Kidspiration, Inspiration and InspireData programs, as well as cross-curricular examples of their use in classrooms.

**Web:** [http://www.inspiration.com/25th\\_form/](http://www.inspiration.com/25th_form/)

**YackPack** connects groups of people in a **private Web space for live talk and voice messaging**. It's engaging, simple to use, and free of advertising. Visit the site for videos and detailed information on how teachers are utilizing this subscription-based service; an unlimited-time *free Trial Service* version limits message playback to 10 seconds. Plus, the firm's *free WalkieTalkie Widget* adds live-voice chat to any Web page.

**Web:** <http://www.yackpack.com/education.html>

**Web:** <http://www.yackpack.com/walkietalkie/>

Find endless learning resources at **Verizon's Thinkfinity** Web site. The site offers, *free of charge*, more than 55,000 **standards-based, K–12 lesson plans** and other educational resources, provided by 11 of the nation's leading educational organizations, to teachers, students and community organizations.

**Web:** <http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx>

Get scores of *free*, downloadable sample pages and lessons from **Educators Publishing Service (EPS)**. The company provides research-based reading intervention resources that serve children in special education programs and those at risk in mainstream classrooms, summer school and after-school programs.

**Web:** [http://www.epsbooks.com/dynamic/free\\_teaching\\_resources/index.asp](http://www.epsbooks.com/dynamic/free_teaching_resources/index.asp)

Blast off for **Innovation Station**. This newly launched listserv aims to help K–6 teachers bring out the “inner engineer” in elementary-age students. Share ideas, techniques and projects on how to leverage for learning kids' natural instincts to tinker, design and build. Participation is *free* from the host, the **International Technology Education Association**.

**Web:** <http://www.iteaconnect.org/Networking/IS/IS.htm>

Continued on page 54 ➔



# Convenience meets power.

NEW



Special academic pricing available<sup>1</sup>

## Lenovo ThinkPad® R61

With VitalSource KEY™ and Personal Portable Library™

- Intel® Core™ Duo Processor T7100 (1.80GHz)
- Integrated ThinkPad network connection (802.11a/b/g)
- Memory: 1GB
- 80GB hard drive
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
- 14.1" WXGA display

**\$1619<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 1201121



Special academic pricing available<sup>1</sup>

## Lenovo ThinkPad® T61

With VitalSource KEY™ and Personal Portable Library™

- Intel® Core™ 2 Duo Processor T7300 (2GHz)
- Integrated ThinkPad network connection (802.11a/b/g)
- Memory: 1GB
- 80GB hard drive
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
- 14.1" WXGA display
- Windows Vista™ Business Edition

**\$1744<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 1201124

NEW



Special academic pricing available<sup>1</sup>

## Lenovo ThinkPad® X60 Tablet PC

With VitalSource KEY™ and Personal Portable Library™

- Intel® Core™ Duo Processor L2400 (1.66GHz)
- Integrated ThinkPad network connection (802.11a/b/g)
- Memory: 1GB
- 80GB hard drive
- 12.1" XGA display
- Windows Vista™ Business Edition

**\$2516<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 1200715



**lenovo**

<sup>1</sup>Minimum purchase quantity of five to qualify for special academic pricing; call your CDWG•G account manager for details



To promote its **Data Center University (DCU)**, **American Power Conversion Corp. (APC)** offers *free* courses and **quarterly prize promotions**. For example, recent prizes included random drawings for a *free* APC Travel Mouse and *free* APC memory sticks. More than 50 courses are available, in three categories of difficulty, covering everything from cooling and powering data centers to calculating total cost of ownership. IT staff can even earn continuing education units or a vendor-neutral credential on data center infrastructure. Find the full list of courses, and other details, at APC's DCU Web site.

**Web:** <http://ms.globalknowledge.com/ilearn/en/learner/jsp/clients/APC/customer/login.jsp>

Teaching composition? Then come to **The Write! Place**. This Web site from **Curriculum Associates** is full of *free* online writing activities, **printable graphic organizers** and **writing prompts**, hundreds of practice lessons and plenty of Web links to correlated research, rubrics and more. Further, teachers who submit a tip, motivational idea or success story about writing instruction receive a **\$50 gift certificate** for the firm's products.

**Web:** <http://www.curriculumassociates.com/educator-resources/write/home.asp?Type=SCH&Custid=3074735319807172009323>

Let **Epson's free Image Size Calculator** tool assist in determining just where to place that multimedia projector in the classroom or auditorium for the optimal image size. Then share the **20 Tips for Presentations**, another *free* resource, with all teachers and administrators. Finally, click on the top menu's **Learn & Create** tab for tips, tricks and timely ideas concerning care and use of the firm's color printers and other products.

**Web:** [http://www.epson.com/cgi-bin/Store/ProductCategory.jsp?BV\\_UseBVCookie=yes&oid=-13922](http://www.epson.com/cgi-bin/Store/ProductCategory.jsp?BV_UseBVCookie=yes&oid=-13922)

**Gaggle.Net** offers a **safe, filtered and monitored email system** for K–12 students, teachers and schools. Further, even the *free* version integrates an anti-pornography scanner for words *and* images, online file sharing and storage for each user, customizable message boards for districts, schools and classrooms—and more. New features include a **blogging tool** with safety features, built-in language translation and controlled chat with text filtering.

**Web:** <http://www.gaggle.net>

Need to get a 35MB file to a colleague or student? No need to use FTP or FedEx. The *free* Lite version of **YouSendIt**, a **Web-based service for secure file transfer**, handles files up to 100MB, allows up to 100 recipients and offers an address book.

**Web:** <http://www.yousendit.com/cms/liteaccount>

Continued on page 56 ➔



# Do more — wherever you are.

## HP iPAQ hx2490 Pocket PC

Wi-Fi® and Bluetooth®-enabled wireless handheld device

- Intel® PXA270 Processor (520MHz)
- Memory: 64MB SDRAM
- 3.5" transfective TFT 64K color display
- Weight: 5.8 oz.
- Microsoft® Windows Mobile® 5.0 for Pocket PC, Premium Edition



**\$399<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 960560



## HP iPAQ hx2190 Pocket PC

Wi-Fi and Bluetooth-enabled wireless handheld device

- Intel® PXA270 Processor (312MHz)
- 3.5" transfective TFT 64K color display
- Memory: 64MB SDRAM
- Weight: 5.8 oz.
- Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0 for Pocket PC, Premium Edition



**\$359<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 956524



**\$499<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 997323

## HP iPAQ hx2790 Pocket PC

Enhanced performance, connectivity and security

- Intel® PXA270 Processor (624MHz)
- Memory: 192MB ROM
- 64MB hard drive SDRAM
- Weight: 5.8 oz.
- Fingerprint reader
- Integrated Wi-Fi 802.11b and Bluetooth technologies
- Microsoft Windows Mobile 5.0 for Pocket PC, Premium Edition

Dock sold separately



One current promotion available from **Computer Associates (CA)** targets spam. Purchase a qualifying CA Protection Suite bundle by September 28, 2007, and receive CA's **Anti-Spam Option** at *no cost*. **CDW•G** is one of the participating resellers. *Free* podcasts, Flash-based demos and trials of CA enterprise- and home-class software are also available. Follow the links on the site's Products tab.

**Web:** <http://ca.com/us/content/campaign.aspx?cid=93705>

From **Zentium Entertainment Computing**, **PalBee** connects people over the Web in *free* videoconferences. Use it for tutoring, presentations, meetings and student or peer collaborations with one or many participants. It's Flash-based (no software to install) and "first come, first served," as bandwidth limits the number of concurrent sessions (up to 50 as of July 2007). Features in the "larva" version include a whiteboard and public text chat, with more to come (widgets and session recording) as PalBee matures.

**Web:** <http://www.palbee.com/>

**VmathLive** allows students to compete against their peers around the nation or around the globe in tests of their mathematics skills. It complements **Voyager Expanded Learning's** intervention math program, *Vmath*, and was used for the first World Math Day competition held in March 2007 in which 250,000 students in nearly 98 countries correctly answered almost 39 million math questions. *Free* trials of **VmathLive** are available.

**Web:** <http://www.voyagerlearning.com/vmathlive/trial.jsp?noEncoding=true>

**Plus:** Mark the calendar for **March 14, 2008** as the date of the 2nd annual **World Math Day**, in which students of all ages will compete in math challenges needing speed and skill.

**Web:** <http://www.worldmathday.com>

The *free* **Presenter's University Web** site can help K–12 educators, administrators, students or staff improve their presentations. Schools might also be interested in the **Technology Upgrade Program** offered by **InFocus**, maker of multimedia projectors. It's a great way to leverage previous projector investments and properly recycle technology. Find the presentation Web site and/or upgrade program by clicking on the menu item on the right-hand side of the InFocus Education Web page.

**Web:** <http://www.infocus.com/Segments/Education/K12.aspx>

**Write To Share**, a Web space devoted to learning, is supported by private funding, and thus is *free* to use. Via the open-source tool Moodle, teachers can **create and deliver interactive courseware**, complete with tests, chat, surveys, "hot potato" activities, correlated resources, Web sites and more. Courses can also include video, audio and games.

**Web:** <http://www.writetoshare.org>



□ Developed by a German college student for his own use, *phase-6* is a Web-based program that helps students of any age learn facts, formulas, vocabulary words and more. Grounded in brain research and the “Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve,” the software administers **flash card-based practice** at specific intervals that lengthen over time until the information is “locked” into long-term memory. Virtually any multimedia content works with this software engine. And for the U.S. launch, **both home and school editions of *phase-6* are free** through December 31, 2007.

**Web:** <http://www.phase-6.com>

□ Take advantage of a *free* 30-day trial of Quillsoft’s **WordQ™ 2** software application designed to motivate dyslexic students to write and promote their self-confidence at the same time. The program works with email, word processors and the Web. As the student begins to type a word, the program predicts what the student is trying to type. It also reads the word back for the student. **SpeakQ™**—the speech-recognition plug-in for **WordQ 2**—is designed for those who cannot use other speech recognition products because they cannot fluently dictate at a fast rate, remember verbal commands and/or get through training.

**Web:** <http://www.wordq.com/cgi-bin/download/download.pl>

□ As critics of a recent U.S. Department of Education study on education technology effectiveness note, success depends on how well the technology is implemented. Toward this end, the *free Software Implementation Toolkit* provides guidance taken from decades of experience. By the Education Division of the **Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)**, this downloadable kit includes worksheet templates and sample scenarios and covers the various critical steps of the process, from before packages arrive to assessing effectiveness. Find the toolkit, a companion Checklist and more on SIIA’s Web site for educators.

**Web:** <http://www.sii.net/education/foreducators/software.asp>

**Plus:** SIIA seeks, and will share, K–12 success stories on the use of software to improve schools.

□ The new **Lexmark Toolbar**, a *free* Web browser add-on, makes printing easy and saves ink as well. It works with *any* printer, regardless of type or brand, and helps schools save money with options such as Print Text Only and Print Black and White, which use less ink. Find it under the Driver & Downloads tab on Lexmark’s Web site. Linux-running schools should also look under that tab for a **Linux Driver Kit**.

**Web:** [http://www.lexmark.com/lexmark/sequentialeml/home/0,6959,204816596\\_652569478\\_0\\_en,00.html](http://www.lexmark.com/lexmark/sequentialeml/home/0,6959,204816596_652569478_0_en,00.html)



## Worthy Web Explorations

### COOL TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

Repurpose that Nintendo DS videogame device for learning. Students can flex their **reading, deduction and problem-solving skills** playing **Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney**. They investigate crime scenes, question witnesses and present evidence to a jury. This **Capcom Entertainment** game can also be used for conversations about concepts in civics, criminal justice, debating, social issues and more.

**Web:** <http://www.capcom.com/phoenixwright/>

**Web:** <http://shop.capcom.com/>

**Lenovo** wants everyone to recycle technology. Visit the firm's **Product Recycling Programs** page for state-based information and details about the **Lenovo Recycling Service**, which accepts any manufacturer's computers, monitors and peripherals. And just for **lithium-ion batteries** in laptops and cell phones, the company also participates in the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's Call2Recycle program.

**Web:** [http://www.pc.ibm.com/ww/lenovo/about/sustainability/environment/ptb\\_us.html](http://www.pc.ibm.com/ww/lenovo/about/sustainability/environment/ptb_us.html)

**Web:** <http://www.rbrc.org/call2recycle/consumer/index.html>

With the **Mobile Prep Flashcard Library**, students can study vocabulary or facts, do algebra, practice a foreign language or prepare for quizzes or the SAT—using **flashcards on their cell phone**. Adults can also turn their “downtime into productive time.” Membership is *free*, and it's easy to get started. Just enter a cell phone number at **Positive Motion's** Web site. The software is sent to the phone automatically—which then calls you when it's ready! Flashcard stacks cover many topics, and more are added weekly.

**Web:** <http://mobileprep.positivemotion.com/home/index.php>

Teachers, instructional technology directors, staff and school leaders at all K–12 levels will find “original, creative, practical and sometimes unusual advice and ideas” at the **Spiral Notebook blog**. Seven bloggers contribute to this outstanding blog, offering insight with style. It's in *Edutopia*, a print and Web-based magazine from The George Lucas Educational Foundation.

**Web:** <http://www.edutopia.org/spiralnotebook>

Schools and districts can **track and recover stolen computers** via **Computrace**, from **Absolute Software**. Unauthorized programs or missing hardware, such as a hard drive, are detected as well. Use the software-based service for compliance needs, for generation of asset reports and for inventory control.

**Web:** <http://www.absolute.com/markets/education.asp>

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# Get the big picture.

## NEC



### NEC VT700

3000 ANSI lumens XGA projector

- Dual computer inputs ensure quick switching between users
- Auto keystone correction instantly projects a square image
- Variable audio out enables connection to external speakers
- Three-year parts, one-year labor and one-year lamp warranty

**\$1099<sup>00</sup>**

CDWG 1244523

## InFocus

The Big Picture



**\$1249<sup>00</sup>**

CDWG 630237

### InFocus Work Big LP70+

1500 ANSI lumens XGA projector

- Contrast ratio: 1100:1
- Lamp life: up to 4000 hours
- Optical zoom lens — adjust your picture without moving the projector
- Two-year limited parts and labor, 90-day lamp warranty



## MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

PRESENTATION PRODUCTS



**\$1049<sup>99</sup>**

CDWG 1094982

### Mitsubishi XD206U

2000 ANSI lumens XGA projector

- Contrast ratio: 2000:1 for exceptional color depth and clarity
- Lamp life: up to 2000 hours, 3000 hours in low mode
- Filter-free for low maintenance and higher reliability
- Three-year full parts and labor, three-year ERA<sup>1</sup>, 90-day lamp warranty

<sup>1</sup>Express Replacement Assistance with 24-hour replacement



In the online universe of **Teen Second Life**, educators and students will find unlimited possibilities for creating a unique learning experience. In this 3-D virtual world, students aged 13 to 17 can become any character, real or imagined; try their skill at a job; own land; build a business—and more. Residents create this ever-expanding world as they wish. Further, teachers can request permission from **Linden Lab**, Second Life’s creator, to conduct special educational projects with their students (and the other residents) inside the game, where surprises are part of the landscape. Basic accounts for Teen Second Life are *free*.

**Web:** <http://teen.secondlife.com>

Do you DDR? That’s videogame-speak for “do you Dance Dance Revolution?” What started at videogame rooms and moved to living rooms has migrated into the school room. The new **RM Easiteach Dance Mat** puts a new “twist” on interactive learning. When students dance on the mat, it’s like pressing a keyboard key. Included are **150 ready-to-use activities** to get the party started, covering math, science, history, English, geography, world languages and more. Templates even allow students to create their own activities. Download a PDF brochure for full details on the product and its innovative approach—and dance to learn!

**Web:** <http://www.rmeducation.com/easiteach/dancemat>

## SITES FOR STUDENTS

Poetry is meant to be heard. Macworld called **PENNsound** an “online poetry powerhouse” for its growing library of MP3 poetry recordings. From the University of Pennsylvania, the ongoing project offers recorded readings from poets and authors.

**Web:** <http://www.writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/>

Building a bond with a specific tutor is what distinguishes **ThinkingStorm**, the **online tutoring service** for **math** and **science**. Tutors have advanced degrees and are certified in online teaching strategies as well. Via the Elluminate Whiteboard Platform, tutor and student can literally work out problems together in real time. A *free* trial period lets students give it a try.

**Web:** <http://www.thinkingstorm.com/>

For its 200th anniversary, the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** offers a **special online collection** of K–12 resources on the **oceans, coasts and skies**. Materials are organized to help students Explore, Understand and Protect these environments. An Activity Book includes 43 activities, downloadable in full or individually. Once at the site, browse around.

**Web:** <http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/edufun.html>



Tailored for middle school students, the **Copyright Kids** Web site explains **copyright law** in kid-friendly language. Students may take a quiz to test their knowledge of copyright law. They may also copyright their own works. A section for parents and teachers describes the site's contents and offers links to other resources and guidelines. The site is an initiative of **The Copyright Society of the U.S.A.**

**Web:** <http://www.copyrightkids.org/>

Students can literally play with math at the **National Library of Virtual Manipulatives** (NLVM). This collection from Utah State University comprises more than **100 interactive math exercises** for grades preK–12, **eModules** (lessons rather than activities) for grades 2–12, and teacher-contributed lesson plans. All online materials are in Spanish as well as English, and *free*; an affordable CD edition adds printing and saving functionality, plus a NoteTaker plug-in. **MATTI Math** distributes the CDs.

**Web:** <http://enlvm.usu.edu/malnav/doc/intro.jsp>

**Web:** <http://www.mattimath.com/>

The fledgling **Encyclopedia of Life** certainly has lofty goals. It aims to “ultimately serve as an **online reference source and database** for *every one of the 1.8 million species* that are named and known on the planet.” Whew. Mash-up technology and wiki-style contributions have enabled this ambitious undertaking. It's just getting started but check out the sample pages for a preview of this amazing resource for teaching, learning and research.

**Web:** <http://www.eol.org/>

**Facts4Me** creates a safe place for youngsters in grades 2–4 to conduct research. This “**walled garden**” **Web site** features a large font, big spaces between lines and short sentences. The sample tour is *free*.

**Web:** <http://www.facts4me.com/>

## SITES FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF

At **Shareology**, one can find **ideas for preK–12 instruction, funding sources for projects, and even technology product information**. Another highlight is the **Podcasting Corner**. One must register (for *free*) to access all features of this digital community from the Nicholas Foundation.

**Web:** <http://www.shareology.org/>

The **Open Resource Centre**, from U.K.-based educator Mike Temple, offers a wealth of resources on how to use **open-source, Web 2.0 and other 21st century technologies** to improve K–12 instruction. Browse his, and other contributors' posts, in categories that include digital video, collaborative software, podcasting and “makes you think.”

**Web:** <http://nlcommunities.com/communities/miketemple123/default.aspx>

In Office 2007, Microsoft changed how files are saved, so older versions of Office will not be able to open the newer version's spreadsheets, documents or presentations. Get an explanation of the reasons from **Ask Bob Rankin**—and then get help. Bob offers multiple options for **Office 2007 converters and viewers**, or alternatively, describes how to save files in the old Office format.

**Web:** [http://askbobrankin.com/office\\_format\\_converters.html](http://askbobrankin.com/office_format_converters.html)

The **Center on Education Policy (CEP)** is a national, independent advocate for public education. “We do not represent any special interests. Instead, we try to help citizens make sense of the conflicting opinions and perceptions about public education and create conditions that will lead to better public schools.” Two interesting **2007 CEP reports** are *Assisting Schools in Improvement*, which examines the kind of help struggling schools receive and perceived effectiveness; and *Has Student Achievement Increased Since No Child Left Behind?*, based on testing data from all 50 states.

**Web:** <http://www.cep-dc.org/>

**BrainHoney**, powered by **Agilix**, may be just getting started, but it's got quite the buzz. A **sample set of instructional games**, for example, are engaging and innovative. And its entire interface is quite simply elegant. The site draws on social networking's power to create an “open-door global classroom” A distinguishing element is the **intuitive, rich-media authoring tool** used to make the sample games. Both students and teachers can use the tool to build interactive projects, lessons, activities and more, as everyone learns and shares together. Windows Vista users can even download a widget to their Vista Sidebar to receive constant, real-time feedback on the spread of their contributions and on the instructional resources rising to the top.

**Web:** <http://www.agilix.com/BrainHoney.aspx>

**Web:** <http://www.brainhoney.com/>

Special education teachers and staff who work with **students with disabilities** should check out **MEAFLink**. From the **Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation**, the site connects experts and educators so they can learn from one another and share “provocative ideas.” Further, the Publications and Resources page boasts a comprehensive set of links to organizations, federal agencies, youth-focused initiatives and more.

**Web:** <http://www.meaf.org/news/meaflink.html>

Continued on page 64 ➡



# Strengthen your network.



## HP ProLiant DL145 G3 Rack-mount Server

The HP ProLiant DL145 G3 Dual-Core Rack-mount Server is a maximum-performance 2P/1U compute node that delivers deployment flexibility at an affordable price. Its AMD Opteron™-based platform is ideal for large clustered High Performance Computing (HPC) environments and to meet the general-purpose computing requirements of cost-conscious, medium-sized organizations.

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- Hard drives: none ship standard, up to six hot-pluggable SAS drive bays
- 2MB Level 2 Cache
- Two Embedded Dual NC373i Multifunction Gigabit server adapters
- Redundant power supply

AMD Opteron™  
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## HP Smart Buy

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The new HP ProLiant DL385 G2 Rack-mount Server delivers on the DL385 performance and the DL380's history of design excellence. It features enterprise-class uptime and manageability, and now offers proven 2-processor AMD Opteron performance, power efficiency and 2U density for a variety of rack deployments and applications.

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- Hard drives: none ship std.; up to six hot-pluggable SAS drive bays
- 2MB Level 2 Cache
- Two Embedded Dual NC373i Multifunction Gigabit server adapters
- Redundant power supply

AMD Opteron™  
Processor 2214 HE (2.20GHz)

**\$2223<sup>43<sup>1</sup></sup>** CDWG 1099360



Hard drives sold separately

### HP Care Pack

Three-year, four-hour, 13 x 5, onsite  
\$448.87 CDWG 678395



<sup>1</sup>After HP Smart Buy instant savings; savings may vary based on channel and/or direct standard pricing; available as open market purchases only; call your CDW•G account manager for details



The Concord Consortium offers *free* math, science, ecology and modeling open-source software for teachers and students, plus tutorials and resources. For example, the **BioLogica** and **Dynamica** modelers handle biology and physics, respectively. **VideoPaper Builder** simplifies the making of video-based case studies for professional development. And crossing disciplines are programs from the Consortium’s Center for Sustainable Future, designed to prompt students to think about conserving natural resources. Included are a **What-If Builder** writing tool, **Community Planner** modeler and **Ecological Footprint Calculator**. A searchable database of classroom-tested activities accompanies the tools.

**Web:** <http://www.concord.org/work/software/>

Curriki.org coined “wiki for curriki” to describe its library of educator generated, edited and vetted instructional content for K–12. Teachers from all over the world share everything from minilessons to full courses. The site now comprises **thousands of searchable resources** from 35,000 (and rising) members. Further, a new **Curriculum Builder** tool helps novices to build original lessons and experienced users to collect resources.

**Web:** <http://www.curriki.org>

Boasting the world’s largest online community of collaborating K–12 learners (7 million in 191 countries), **ePals** is well known for connecting classrooms and students. Its **SchoolMail** and **SchoolBlog** programs provide safe, secure environments. Now the firm has launched **Ask ePals**, a *free* **Web service** to locate **resources, content, advice, tips** and more. Further, copying some code into a school’s or district’s Web page (to create a widget) puts that service just a click away. Learn more, ask a question and get the widget code at ePals’ Web site.

**Web:** <http://www.epals.com/askepals>

Thinkport is “home port” to a huge fleet of the K–12 community. From **Maryland Public Television** and **Johns Hopkins University**, the site offers a comprehensive array of K–12 resources, such as the popular **Online Field Trips**. It also includes **Builders** for lessons, projects, classroom Web sites and student activities; thousands of **standards-based lessons**; a multitude of **videoclips**; a personal calendar—and more. Become a member (*free*) for access to all of this site’s riches.

**Web:** <http://www.thinkport.org>

Use these **multimedia demonstrations** for an “interactive insight” into the **security products and services** of **SonicWALL**. Choose the **Comprehensive Demo** for a look at all of the firm’s offerings or delve into the specifics of **Unified Threat Management, firewalls, email or endpoint security, content filtering, wireless solutions** and more.

**Web:** <http://www.sonicwall.com/us/products/resources/2198.html>



# Join CoSN Today

...and experience the benefits of belonging



*CoSN is THE national organization for K-12 technology leaders. Through networking powerful community of peers, CoSN nurtures leadership, promotes ed tech advocacy and gives me tools, resources and links to innovative best practices in the field. As a technology leader, I rely on CoSN every day!*

—Katie Lovett  
CIO, Atlanta, Georgia

## Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), Your Voice in the Future of Education Technology

CoSN's mission is to serve as the national organization for K-12 technology leaders who use technology strategically to improve teaching and learning.

### CoSN Membership Benefits:

- eNewsletters that provide timely and relevant information on key issues impacting K-12 school networking.
- Face-to-face networking opportunities with your peers and the corporate sector at the annual K-12 School Networking Conference ([www.k12schoolnetworking.org](http://www.k12schoolnetworking.org)).
- Face-to-face networking opportunities through CoSN events such as CTO Clinics or CTO Forums.
- Leadership development information that enables you to stay current on the key education technology issues you face.
- Participation in CoSN's annual Internet & Education Webcast Series.
- Representation of your interests in Washington.
- A free print copy of the new edition of the annual CoSN Compendium, plus online access to all previous years' monographs.
- Access to essential ed tech resources, available exclusively in myCoSN at [www.cosn.org](http://www.cosn.org).
- Opportunities to volunteer with CoSN, shaping our policy and direction.



**Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)**  
1025 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1010  
Washington, DC 20005  
866.267.8747 | 202.393.2011 (fax)  
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Susan Wallerstein, Ph.D.  
Director of Media and Technology  
Greenwich Public Schools, Greenwich, CT

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- ✓ School Safety
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Technology Assessment
- ✓ School Improvement Plan
- ✓ Post Graduation Evaluation
- ✓ Grant Evaluation

For more information and a demonstration visit [www.zarca.com](http://www.zarca.com)



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