Technology Update

TI MISSION STATEMENT: Technology Initiatives assists educators and stakeholders to effectively plan, implement, and use technology by providing resources, professional development, guidance in obtaining funding, and technical assistance for learning, teaching, and leading students to become productive citizens.

LINK TO DIGITAL COPY: Http://www.alsde.edu, click Sections, click Technology Initiatives, click Publications, click Newsletters. Please make copies for all of your School Technology Coordinators.

AETC– Presenter Deadlines– Help Needed

How to Submit a Proposal

Don't look now, but AETC, the Alabama Educational Technology Conference, 2008 is fast approaching—at least some important deadlines are. First, Hands-On Workshop (HOW) presenters for the 2008 Conference may make proposals through our web site at http://www.aetc.cc until November 20, 2007. Concurrent session presenters may continue through December 14, 2007. These deadlines are established to meet print deadlines for our Preliminary program. HOW workshops'presenters and descriptions are printed in

the preliminary program. The Conference will be June 17-20, 2008 at the Birmingham/ Jefferson Convention Complex.

What types of proposals will be accepted?

Topic Suggestions- A good place to start is our theme. This year we've chosen *21st Century Education: Going Global & Mobile*. Education is moving, as is technology, to make it smaller, take it with you and expand it to the world. Sessions on podcasts, blogs, wikis, and social networking are valid examples of Web 2.0 topics that are fit presentation themes. Additionally, it's

probably not too early to look at the draft version of the Alabama Technology Education Course of Study (available here: http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/doc_download.asp?section=54&id=1069&sort=6) and design sessions based on the new elements as introduced by the new ISTE NETS and currently in the

Focus: Brian Tisdale– "Vanilla Wafer" Does Tech at Hokes Bluff Middle School

Brian Tisdale, a teacher at Hokes Bluff Middle School in Hokes Bluff, Alabama, is fun-loving, innovative, intellectual, and driven to the best he can be. Mr. Tisdale's terrific sense of humor can be partly credited for his many successes in the

classroom. While his students are drawn to his lessons because of their real-life applications, they cannot get enough of his witty antics in class. He often dressed in character, his favorite being the "Vanilla Wafer" outfit to

Tisdale as Ben Franklin– Combining Humor and Tech

ALEX Partners with Alabama Reading Initiative to Add Online Resources for Reading: Across the Curriculum

ALEX will expand online educational resources aligned to state standards to support Reading across the curriculum. These rich, interactive, engaging resources, posted to ALEX, will be provided free to Alabama teachers.

This online content currently resides on Thinkfinity.org, the Verizon Foundation's free, comprehensive program and online portal that provides over 55,000 educational resources, including standards-based, grade-specific, K-12 lesson plans and other interactive tools and materials for teachers and students provided in partnership with many of the nation's leading educational and literacy organizations.

In addition to thousands of Web resources and lesson plans, training materials will also be developed to help teachers use ALEX to improve learning in all subject areas, from early childhood through high school, with special materials developed for teacher preparation programs.

Spotlight on Hokes Bluff's Tisdale (Continued from p.1)

inspire poetry. All day long, he entertains classes in a hysterical yellow rap star costume. He performs his own rap song, and his students break into groups and create their own songs.

Brian Tisdale took his fifth-grade students on a virtual visit to a French classroom, full of eager students waiting to ask questions of them. Using an Apple Powerbook G4 laptop and an iSight camera, he met with Ghislain Domine's high school classroom in the north of France. The computer program, called iVisit, facilitated this visit. The intercontinental discussion lasted around fifty minutes. Some of the more memorable questions involved the history and culture of France.

Mr. Tisdale, known for his affinity for instructional technologies, had been looking for a venue to allow his students to converse with others around the globe. This was his first attempt to do so. Each year, he chooses a theme to model writing enthusiasm. This year's theme was Mission Possible: Around the World in 180 Days.

Earlier in the year, Mr. Tisdale

"...Tisdale took his fifth grade students on a virtual visit to a French classroom, full of eager students waiting to ask questions of them.

purchased 40 Apple eMates, a product manufactured from 1997-1998 for educational use and sold specifically for school systems by Apple. Brian bought each of these on eBay for around $25 each. He did so out of his own pocket. At this time, he is using the eMates for essay writing and word processing. However, he adds that "as he learns more of their capabilities and functionalities, their usage will be broadened. "

Another tech gadget he really enjoys is the Classroom Performance System that he won at AETC two years ago. With this technology, Brian can generate quizzes and assignments that students answer via a remote control. He uses the system to alleviate test-taking anxiety while being able to instantly assess content knowledge. The students enjoy the interactive nature of this tool and especially like the instant feedback they receive.

In addition to teaching, Brian Tisdale works part-time at an Apple store, some

forty-five minutes away from his home. He enjoys staying abreast of emerging technologies and planning their possible uses in the classroom. Most recently, he received an Apple i-phone, which he uses daily in his classroom.

While somewhat unorthodox in approach, Brian Tisdale is a visionary in education. He utilizes all resources to equip young minds with the skills they need to become successful 21st century citizens and has a lot of fun doing it.

More Pictures from Brian's Classroom:
http://gallery.mac.com/brian.tisdale

Students use eMates purchased from an eBay auction.

draft. Distance education topics are very good with momentum gained in this area by the ACCESS Distance Learning project and eLearning Alabama. The use of technology to collaborate is additional fertile ground for workshop or presentation development. These suggestions only hint at what is acceptable and possible. Imaginative new proposals will stand along side the tried and true to create a mosaic of topics valid for new and old attendees alike.

Who's your Audience?

After considering different topics, there is another area of consideration. To whom are you going to focus your topic? Generally, AETC serves education in Alabama. Within this broad range, there are many potential special interest groups upon which to focus your topic. Administrators, various age/grade levels, various disciplines, subject matters, library media are all possible audiences on which to concentrate. The committee wishes to have a balance of general topics and others focused on specific subjects.

How is AETC Organized?

General Session- This session opens the main conference each year and highlights a speaker important to technology education from either the political or technology education arena. Additionally, this is a forum for highlighting achievements in the field of technology education in Alabama through awards such as the Chiquita Marbury Outstanding Technology Innovation Award.

Concurrent Session- One-hour sessions on topics presented above by technology leaders from Alabama school districts, technology business leaders, or nationally-recognized technology education speakers.

Hands-on Workshop- There are three variations of the HOW: three-hour

sessions, six-hour sessions and one and half hour Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) sessions. All feature instruction delivered with computers in the hands of the participants. The three- and six-hour sessions provide the computers and software necessary for instruction. Instructors may come from school systems, nationally-known technologists, technology business leaders, or an additional group: the Technology in Motion staff for the State of Alabama. Attendees pay a required fee above the price of general conference admission.

Panel Discussions: This moderated forum offers participants the opportunity to listen and participate in a discussion with technology education leaders on timely topics.

Exhibit Hall- Businesses from the southeastern region of the United States including those from Alabama pay a fee for the privilege of advertising at AETC. They offer great information about technology products that perhaps are viable solutions to educational problems.

Special Meetings- Often special groups have meetings that are held in conjunction with AETC. We accommodate these groups based on their participation with us in the common goal of providing a more relevant education through the integration of modern technology.

How do I get Involved?

If you are a potential presenter for

"AETC wants you! What's more, Alabama's children need you..."

either Hands-on or Concurrent sessions, you must fill out the application at: http://www.aetc.cc.

If you are considering attending, again our web site is the place for the most recent information on the conference.

If you are a company that wishes to exhibit, a link found on our website to McRae & Company gives phone numbers, email addresses and other pertinent information concerning participation. (Use the pull down menu "Information—>Exhibitor Information")

For all additional information: Hands-On Workshops- Cheri Hayes at chayes@alsde.edu, Concurrent Sessions or other general questions may contact Don Marchant at jmarchant@alsde.edu, or Donna Fuller at dfuller@alsde.edu.

Presenter Benefits

Most presenters are Alabama educators. Share your experiences with your peers and interact with state and national leaders in the area of educational technology.
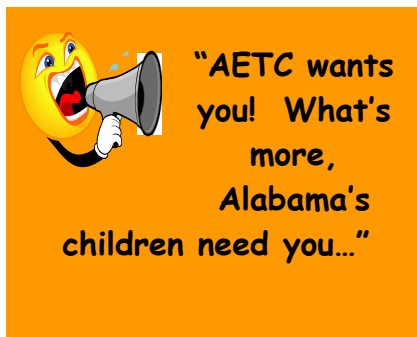
Develop a network of your peers to further your interest in using technology in education.

All presenters receive a complimentary conference registration allowing admission to all except the HOW workshops and certain special sessions.

A small stipend is available for the HOW presenters.

Comments and Contacts

AETC wants you! What's more, Alabama's children need you to take advantage of the opportunity technology education offers for them to move into the 21st Century with an education that is "global and mobile." A conference that highlights this theme certainly is a great step toward a bright future for Alabama. Current data will be posted as it is available on our website: http://www.aetc.cc.

EvaluTech- An Invaluable Planning Resource

As a part of the effort to insure quality, the SREB (Southern Regional Education Board), of which Alabama is a member, has put together a free resource for teachers involved in planning. EvaluTech provides a searchable database of reviews of educational resources. Its primary goal stated on its website is "Supporting teachers by providing up-to-date, reliable and useful resources and information…" The Search tool located at http://www.evalutech.sreb.org/search/index.asp allows for Keyword searches, and filters by subject (21 subjects including computer skills), format (AV, LVD, Print, Software, websites—free, websites—pay), levels (PreK-5, 6-12, Prof), Title, Author's Name, Series, Publisher, Copyright, and Issue Date. With the NCLB requirement that places emphasis on using research-based tools in education, this tool offers a great resource at the right price for all schools.

EvaluTech grew out of a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Southern Regional Education Board to create an online, keyword-searchable database of reviews of instructional materials that had begun in 1965 in North Carolina. This review service has grown to include over 10,000 recommended reviews of software and print resources. The homepage of EvaluTech is at: http://www.evalutech.sreb.org/

Free Resources to Improve Your Technology Planning

Members of SETDA, the State Educational Technology Directors Association, in association with its corporate partners, and representatives from various educational organizations meet in the fall of each year to share resources and to create Toolkits designed to meet the educational technology needs of educators. The SETDA Toolkits are free resources for all educators. Check out the wide variety of topics that are covered in their toolkits that date back to 2002:

2002 Toolkit

- Scientifically Based Research
- Technology Literacy Assessment
- Common Data Elements
- Effective Teaching with Technology Assessment
  National Education Technology Plan

2003 Toolkit

- Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources
- Technology Leadership Skills for the 21st Century
- Data Driven Decision Making and Data Collection

- High Quality Professional Development: Teaching & Learning Using Technology Virtual Schools & Distance Learning

2004-2005 Toolkit

- Curriculum Development
- eLearning Leadership & Policies
- Evaluation of Student Achievement
- Infrastructure & Technology
- Professional Development Program Evaluation

2006 Toolkit

- Showing Evidence of Educational Technology Effectiveness
- Using Data for School Reform
- Technology's Role in Math Curriculum Standards and Curriculum Alignment

2007 Toolkit

- Media Literacy State Advocacy

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Gold Sponsors: Advanta, Atomic Learning, Calypso Control Systems, ESRI, Follett Software, Glencoe McGraw-Hill, Inspiration Software, Learning.com, Metiri Group, PBS Teacherline, SchoolNet ,and Smart Technologies.

The link for these resources is as follows: http://www.setda.org/web/guest/toolkits.

USA Teacher of the Year– Linda Jarzyniecki of Greenville HS

We would like to offer our congratulations to Linda Jarzyniecki of Greenville High School for being chosen as USA Today Teacher of the Year. This honor was awarded to only 20 educators in the nation.

Among the items listed in her resume', Jarzyniecki noted "...I emphasized the excellent training I had received in such areas as ACCESS (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide) Distance Learning,..." She went on to share information about the 21st Century School status of Greenville High School.

For the complete story on Linda, use the following link to view the story from Monday, October 29, 2007 as published in the Greenville Advocate Online: http://www.greenvilleadvocate.com/

Alabama Supercomputer Authority Resource

Don't miss the great information on the current Alabama Supercomputer Authority E-Resource Web page. The current edition features stories on "Harnessing the Internet."

As always, the E-Resource contains links to valuable resources that enlighten, educate and ease our efforts with technology. Librarians will find this (August 2007) version particularly informative with the links to the Search Engine Showdown, The Librarians' Internet Index, The Electronic Statistics Textbook, the National Repository of Online Courses, the Open Directory Project and Eduhound.

If you haven't bookmarked this location, please do so. The site is at the following: http://www.asc.edu/news/e-resource_index.shtml

Special Invitation to Alabama's Teachers, ALEX (Continued from page 2)

Special Invitation to Alabama's Teachers:

ALEX invites you to develop an interesting PowerPoint Module, with picture links to resources on Thinkfinity.org, and/or ALEX that can be used to train other teachers about how to use resources on ALEX and/or Thinkfinity to engage students in learning in the following subject areas: Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Library Media, Special Education, English Language Learners, Career Technical, etc. Be sure to include information on the Notes Page of your PowerPoint that guides teachers in how to use the PowerPoint to train other teachers.

When you are finished, simply: a.) send an email to administrator@alex.state.al.us with the b.) PowerPoint attached. In the c.) body of the email, list all relevant Course of Study Standards that the training covers, then d.) insert in the Subject of the email the following: ALEX TRAIN: Subject or Topic [Grade Level(s)] You will hear from the ALEX Team within a few weeks! That is all there is to it! Good luck with your submission, and thank you for your contribution to ALEX.

What is ALEX?

ALEX is the State Department of Education's interactive Web portal that receives over 27,000 unique visitors per month. ALEX won a 2007 "Best of the Web" Award from the Center for Digital Education and Government hosting, through the Alabama Supercomputer Authority, a rich assortment of interactives and resources linked to the searchable Alabama Courses of Study. Most of these activities are supplied by the Verizon Foundation's, Thinkfinity.org, with over 2,000 lesson plans supplied by Alabama teachers. These resources are designed to engage students and teachers in 21st century learning, and expand new opportunities.

In 2008, a training program will be offered and available in every district to help teachers learn to use ALEX and Thinkfinity.org in their area of expertise. Parents also have access to ALEX so that they can help their child meet school expectations at home.

> "ALEX won a 2007 "Best of the Web" Award from the Center for Digital Education and Government"

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Technology Initiatives Section

AETC
ALABAMA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

21ST CENTURY EDUCATION:
GOING GLOBAL & MOBILE

AETC 2008
Coming June 17— 20

AASL STANDARDS FOR THE 21ST-CENTURY LEARNER RELEASED

The new library media standards were unveiled at the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) at the October convention. These standards provide guidance in preparing our students to be informed consumers of information in this technology and literacy age.

The learning standards begin by defining nine foundational common beliefs:

- Reading is a window to the world.

- Inquiry provides a framework for learning.

- Ethical behavior in the use of information must be taught.

- Technology skills are crucial for future employment needs.

- Equitable access is a key component for education.

- The definition of information literacy has become more complex as resources and technologies have changed.

- The continuing expansion of information demands that all individuals acquire the thinking skills that will enable them to learn on their own.

- Learning has a social context.

- School libraries are essential to the development of learning skills.

The Standards:

The Standards describe how learners use skills, resources, and tools to

1. inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge;

2. draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge;

3. share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society;

4. pursue personal and aesthetic growth

The standards are available on the Alabama Library Media Online (ALMO) webpage.