



EXPERIENCE DISTANCE LEARNING

Give distance learning technology a try with full week of interactive sessions!

The Kansas Association for Interactive Distance Education is once again hosting Kansas Distance Learning week November 9-13, 2009. This is an excellent opportunity to experience Interactive Video Conferencing and see why K-12 schools across the state of Kansas are benefiting greatly from this technology.

The theme for this year is "Go Green" to support the recent advances in alternative energy as well as the more widespread interest in preserving the environment through all areas of living. Participants will be able to ask questions and get immediate answers to questions about green careers, bioenergy, building green communities, conservation, and

more. High school students will be able to follow along as students in Salina, KS present energy-related experiments.

Here are some of the sessions you can enjoy throughout the week:

Wind Energy in Your Schools

Discuss the benefits of having a turbine in your district.

Bioenergy for a Greener World

Abengoa's (a technology company) bio-energy project seeks to reduce carbon emissions.

Green Jayhawks: Personal and Environmental Health at KU

Student-led initiatives are making a difference at KU!

Careers in the Wind Industry

Learn components of a commercial scale wind farm.

Demonstrating Energy Efficiency

Students in Salina, KS conduct three experiments to demonstrate energy efficiency.

The conference will be available to watch online at <http://tinyurl.com/>

[distancelearningweek](#) but participants can also arrange to attend interactive distance learning sessions at one of several regional sites across Kansas. If you would like to attend a session at the University of Kansas, please contact Amber Rowland at amber@altec.org. For more information about Kansas Distance Learning Week follow the KAIDE link at <http://www.kan-ed.org>.

In this issue:

Experience Distance Learning	1
WHIRL - a new EdTech Blog	2
Grants and Awards	3
ALTEC Professional Development	4



**ALTEC PROVIDES
SERVICES TO SUPPORT
YOUR EXISTING PROJECTS**

If you have an existing or proposed project, ALTEC can develop and host your Web site, support your online community with discussion boards, set up your video conference, or custom-design a software application to meet your needs. Propose stronger projects and programs using ALTEC's over 15 years of expertise in educational technology, special needs, professional development, and evaluation. Please call us at 785 864 0699 to set up a free consultation. We're happy to assist you with all your technology needs.



GIVE TECHNOLOGY A WHIRL!

WHIRL is a new blog that sends weekly educational technology updates every Friday.

Web Highlights and Inspiring Resources for Learning (WHIRL) is the latest initiative launched by the highly successful Technology Rich Classrooms (TRC) program in Kansas. The blog was created to provide K-12 educators with weekly updates about educational technology by featuring experienced TRC teachers, facilitators, and team leaders with classroom stories and ideas for powerful learning and integration.

Visit WHIRL to find high-quality online resources for lesson plans, video editing, educational games, teaching ideas, free online software, and many resources that can help you create your own technology rich lessons. Visit http://www.kansastrc.org/profile/Whirl?xg_source=profiles_memberList to get started!

Visit <http://4Teachers.org> for a suite of 15 free online tools designed to save you time in the classroom.



GRANTS AND AWARDS

GTECH After School Advantage Program

http://www.gtech.com/about_gtech/proposal_guidelines.asp

Public schools and nonprofit community organizations with an existing after-school program that is in need of a computer lab are eligible to apply for a computer lab from GTECH. If selected, your school or organization will receive up to \$15,000 in state-of-the-art computers and equipment to support your after-school program. Proposals are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis and applications are available at the Web site.

NEA Foundation Grants

<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/>

The NEA Foundation has awarded more than 2,000 grants since 1999. Public school educators are invited to apply for \$2,000 to \$5,000 grants to support professional development opportunities and innovative ideas to improve teaching and learning. Educators can apply for grants through one of two primary grant initiatives: *Student Leadership Grants* and *Learning and Leadership Grants*. Applications are available online and the next deadline for



Grants continued...

applications is February 15, 2010.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants

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

If your school is in need of a new learning area such as a garden, playground, peer-tutoring center, landscaping project, physical fitness area, updates to your library, or just about any educational program you can think of, these grants might help you achieve those goals. You can apply online for up to \$5,000 in funding to support your project. Applications are open now until February 12, 2010, but once 1,500 applications are received, the application process will close.

Toyota Tapestry Grants

<http://tapestry.nsta.org/>

K-12 Science teachers are invited to apply for one of 50 large grants of up to \$10,000 or 20-32 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 to support innovative projects that enhance science education in their school or district. The deadline for applications is January 18, 2010. Applications are available online.

Don't miss these upcoming conferences!

NSDC Gateway to Learning National Conference National Staff Development Council

Date: December 5-9, 2009

Location: America's Center, St. Louis, MO

Web site: <http://www.nsd.org/conference09/>

MACE Conference

Mid-America Computers in Education

Date: March 4-5, 2010

Location: Alumni Center - Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Web site: <http://www.mace-ks.org/>

ISTE 2010

(Formerly NECC)

Date: June 27-30, 2010

Location: Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

Web site: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/>

2009 T+L Conference

Technology and Learning Conference

Date: October 28-30, 2009

Location: Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

Web site: <http://www.nsba.org/tl/>

We Need Your Help!

As you may know, the 4Teachers.org online resources were developed with money from a U.S. Department of Education grant that began in 1995 and continued until 2005. Since funding ended in 2005 we have been working on ways to keep the 4Teachers resources operating smoothly and, just as important, updated to meet the needs of 21st century users.

You can pledge your tax-deductible donation of \$10, \$25, or more through the University of Kansas Endowment Association. When you donate, you can choose to support a specific 4Teachers tool, or your gift can work to improve all of the 4Teachers resources.

Please visit the 4Teachers Support page at <http://4teachers.org/support> for more information. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to make the 4Teachers tools the most valuable resources they can be.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Melissa Brown

Editor

Karyn Riney

Copy Editor

Amber Rowland

Contributor