

ALTEC NEWSLETTER

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NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES!

Apply for corporate and foundation grants to fund math and science projects, environmental projects, outdoor learning environments, new technology, and more!

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ALTEC will design a custom training that's right for you! Start making the most of the technology you have. Our talented staff of trainers can teach you how to use technology to enhance the learning experience for your students.

\$3.5 billion in new Title I Funding

States now have the funding and flexibility to make drastic changes to improve the performance of their lowest performing schools. Read about the new funding guidelines and flexible options in place to allow states to improve school leadership, student achievement, and provide ongoing support for teachers.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Have you ever had a terrific idea for a classroom project but never had the funds to implement it? Corporations and foundations provide funding for teachers to implement innovative projects, this is your chance to fund your exciting projects. This month we did some research for you so that you can get started funding the programs that are important to you and your students. Read through the corporate and foundation grants and awards that we've found that you might find useful this year. Deadlines for applications and Web sites are provided to give you a head start.

Best Buy Teach@15 Award Program

Deadline: Ongoing. Nominations start September 1, 2009, voting starts September 15, 2009

Number of Awards: 21

Award Amount: First Place \$1,500, Second Place \$1,000, Third Place \$500

Web site: http://at15.com/contests_scholarships/teach

Beginning September 15, 2009 and every 15 days thereafter, Best Buy will open up nominations for students to nominate their school for the award. Teen members go to [web](#) site and create a profile, then they can nominate their school once each day during each nomination period. At the end of 15 days, the three schools with the most votes will receive money for technology for their school. First place wins \$1,500, second place wins \$1,000, and third place wins \$500. The award cycle begins again every 15 days. U.S. public and private schools serving grades 7-12 are eligible to apply for the Teach@15 Awards program.

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Deadline: December 31, 2009

Number of Awards: As many as resources allow

Award Amount: \$250-\$2500

Web site: <http://captainplanetfoundation.org/default.aspx?pid=3&tab=apply>

All tax exempt K-12 schools and non-profit organizations are invited to apply for funding to support environmental projects that promote problem solving skills and hands-on involvement for K-12 students. Sample projects include organic gardening, water quality testing, recycling programs, environmental career projects, natural habitat restoration, organic farming study, and many more. Visit the Web site to view previously funded projects in each state.

Christopher Columbus Awards

Deadline: February 8, 2010

Number of Awards: 30 semi-finalist teams and eight finalist teams

Award Amount: up to \$25,000 plus an all expense paid trip to Walt Disney World for the finalists

Web site: <http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>

This programs challenges groups of three to four students along with an adult coach to identify a problem in the community and apply the scientific method to create an innovative solution for the problem. One gold medal award winner in 2009 developed the Ergo-PAD (Ergonomic Poster Alignment Device) to eliminate bad posture while on the computer. Another created a community education program about endangered species. To view more winning entries or to apply, visit the Web site.

Double Your Impact: Funds for High School Teachers at High-Need or Rural Schools

Deadline: Ongoing

Number of Awards: unspecified

Award Amount: varies

Web site: <http://www.donorschoose.org/>

Thanks to a \$4 million gift from the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, teachers can register online to apply for matching funding for projects that prepare their students for college. Schools where 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch are eligible to apply for funding. The

teacher develops a budget for the project and provides 50 percent of the funding and Double Your Impact will fund the remaining 50 percent. Visit the Web site to read complete details and apply. Donors.org has a wide variety of programs available for teachers to apply for so you can find one that is right for you.

Kids in Need Teacher Grant

Deadline: September 30, 2009

Number of Awards: 200-300

Award Amount: \$100-\$500

Web site: <http://www.kidsinneed.net/grants/index.php>

Kids in Need Teacher Grants support creative classroom projects. A number of corporate vendors donate to make this program possible to all K-12 school in the United States. Applications are judged according to innovativeness, clarity of objectives, replication feasibility, evaluation methods, and cost effectiveness. Applications are available online and through participating vendors.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants

Deadline: October 16, 2009 or until 1,500 applications are received

Number of Awards: at least 100

Award Amount: up to \$5,000

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

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants were created to fund projects that create outdoor learning environments for schools. Sample projects include a reading garden, vegetable garden, physical fitness area, school nature trail, peer tutoring center, rotating student art exhibit or any creative outdoor learning idea you can think of. U.S. public school educators are invited to apply.

NCSS Teaching Awards for Social Studies Teachers

Deadline: April 1, 2010

Number of Awards: Three

Award Amount: \$2,500, complimentary one-year membership to NCSS, \$500 in travel expenses to attend NCSS program to present a session on their work

Web site: <http://www.socialstudies.org/awards/teaching>

The National Council of Social Studies Teachers will be honoring exceptional Social Studies teachers of grades K-6, 5-8, and 7-12. Teachers who have developed creative and innovative instructional methods for engaging students in history and social sciences are invited to apply.

NEA Green Grants for Environmental Education

Deadline: October 15, 2009, February 1, 2010, and June 1, 2010

Number of Awards: unspecified

Award Amount: \$2,000 to \$5,000

Web site: <http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/greengrants.html>

Public school educators are invited to apply for Green Grants to fund the development of new techniques and approaches for teaching "green" concepts. Teachers are encouraged to integrate green related topics with standards-based content in the effort to improve student achievement in these areas. These funds were made possible through financial commitments from Nickelodeon and the Staples Foundation.

Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers

Deadline: January 18, 2010

Number of Awards: 50 large grants and at least 20 mini grants

Award Amount: mini grants up to \$2,500 and large grants of \$10,000

Web site: <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/>

The Tapestry Grants for Science program awards K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in their school or district. Middle or high school science teachers who teach a minimum of two science classes per day and have at least two years teaching experience may apply. Up to four staff people may also work on the proposal. Toyota and the

National Science Teachers Association have provided more than \$8 million in awards to outstanding science teachers since 1991.

Vernier Technology Awards

Deadline: November 30, 2009

Number of Awards: Seven

Award Amount: \$1,000 cash, \$1,000 travel expenses for the NSTA Conference, \$1,000 worth of Vernier products

Web site: <http://www.nsta.org/pdfs/awards/Vernier.pdf>

Vernier and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) invite K-college science teachers who practice innovative uses of data-collection technology (e.g. probes or sensors) interfacing with computers, handhelds, or graphing calculators in the science classroom to apply for the Vernier Technology Awards. Seven awards will be presented including one elementary level, two middle level, three high school level, and one college award.



ALTEC Professional Development

Do you have technology at your school that is not being utilized to its full potential? ALTEC's talented staff of trainers has more than 15 years of experience providing high-quality, affordable professional development in schools across the country. We provide a wide variety of options to choose from and can customize sessions based on your school or district's specific needs. Here are some of the workshops schools have scheduled for this month:

- ✓ **Using Games and Simulations to Teach**
- ✓ **Technology Can Make Your Life Easier: Free Online Resources for Teachers!**
- ✓ **Google Tools in Education**
- ✓ **Technology Integration for Classroom Teachers**
- ✓ **Standards-Based Teaching, 21st Century Style!**
- ✓ **Web 2.0: Tools for the 21st Century Classroom**
- ✓ **Podcastic Classroom Applications**
- ✓ **Renew, Refresh and Recharge: Consultations with Technology Integrationists**

Visit <http://pd.altec.org> for complete details or call us for a free consultation at 785 864 0699.



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.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR QUIZSTAR SUBSCRIPTION

QuizStar is ALTEC's extremely popular online quiz creator designed to allow teachers to create, manage, grade, and store quizzes online. QuizStar is a huge timesaving resource for teachers. Once you create your quizzes you can duplicate them, share them with other teachers using a handy import/export feature, print grade reports, and analyze quiz results to determine areas that need more work. You can also attach multimedia files to questions such as graphics, videos, and links.

If you are new to QuizStar you can try it out free for 60 days. Try it out in your classroom and see if it meets your needs. If you do choose to subscribe, the files that you created during your free trial will be instantly available to you any time you choose to subscribe. Choose from subscriptions as low as \$2.75 a month. Sign up for two or more subscriptions and save! Visit <http://quizstar.4teachers.org> for complete details.

Stimulus Update: Schools to receive an additional \$3.5 billion in Title I Funding

Education Secretary Duncan announced that states will have an additional \$3.5 billion in Title I funding this year to help turn around their lowest performing schools. States are to identify the bottom five percent of their Title I schools to implement reforms to significantly improve school culture and academic performance. Traditionally, Title I funds are used for elementary schools, but this new funding allows states to apply for waivers to use funding to improve secondary schools as well. Under the guidelines of this additional funding districts will be required to choose from four models to implement these changes:

Turn around: Replace the principal and at least 50 percent of the staff, and consider extending the school day, implementing recruiting programs to find highly effective teachers, and offering social services.

Re-start: Close the school and reopen under a new education or charter management organization. The school would be required to admit, within the grades it serves, all former students who wish to attend under the new management system.

Closures: Close the school and transfer students to other higher-performing school within the district.

Transformations: Replace school leadership, develop a reward system for teacher effectiveness, adopt comprehensive instructional programs, provide more time for students and teachers and community-oriented programs, and provide intensive support and flexibility to students and staff.

States have the flexibility to distribute this funding over multiple years to allow for more effective and long-term changes that have not been possible under the existing Title I program. The guidelines further state that districts are to use a variety of models to implement these changes. Any district with nine or more schools involved in this program may not use the same model for more than half of the schools. For more information about this Title I funding please contact your local school district.



Conference Calendar

Meet ALTEC Staff at these Upcoming Conferences!

MITC 2009

MORENet Instructional Technology Conference

Date: October 18-20, 2009

Location: Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO

Web site: <http://www.more.net/conferences/mitc/>

Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics Conference

Date: Friday, October 23, 2009

Location: Hays High School, Hayes, KS

Web site: <http://katm.org/joomla/>

KSDE Assessment Conference

Kansas State Department of Education

Date: October 26-27, 2009

Location: Maner Conference Center, Topeka, KS

Web site:

<http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2708>

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/>

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/>

Did you miss NECC 2009? Watch many of the sessions you missed online! ISTE has a collection of podcasts available for you to view at: <http://tinyurl.com/nuv9ww>

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.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Melissa Brown

Editor

Karyn Riney

Copy Editor

SEND COMMENTS AND FEATURE IDEAS TO:

info@altec.org