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4Teachers ALTEC News

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ALTEC Presentations at NECC

An inside look at what you may have missed ...

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ALTEC professional development providers made quite an impact at the National Education Computing Conference (NECC) in Washington, D.C. this month. If you were unable to attend the conference, you can still enjoy the benefits of attending the ALTEC presentations because the materials are posted online.

Global Connections through Natural Disasters – A PBL Lesson

Presented by Amber Rowland

Web site: <https://naturaldisasterspbl.wikispaces.com/>

This project gives teachers all of the materials they need to complete a four week collaborative project for grades three to six on Natural Disasters. In the spring of 2008, teachers in Manhattan, KS experienced an F-4 tornado in their town. They posted a video on ePALS, looking for classrooms in other geographic areas who are interested in sharing their experiences with natural disasters. ePALS is a Web site dedicated to connecting classrooms interested in collaborative projects.

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Students will share information about natural disasters in their own geographic areas and present the information to their peers. They will also study natural disasters in their own areas from a historical, scientific, and human perspective and compare and contrast them to those of their virtual peers. Students have several options to use to communicate, such as e-mail, Skype, wikis, or blogs. They are also provided with links to helpful resources that they can use to conduct their research. They then choose from a wide variety of multimedia, such as PowerPoint, Web site, podcast, wiki, or blog, to present their projects.

The teaching materials include videos, a detailed lesson plan, and free online resources that will help you to find classrooms to collaborate with, create free Web pages, and more. Visit the Web site for complete details on how to get started on this exciting project.

“Presenting math skills in a video game format causes students to become highly motivated to learn and improve their skills.”

Technology Rich Classrooms: Effect of the Kansas Model

Presented by Marilyn Ault and Jana Craig Hare

Web site: <http://trc.altec.org/>

TRC Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu99aC8YK4Y>

Paper: http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/program/search_results_details.php?sessionid=43613973&selection_id=48067929&rownumber=3&max=5&gopage=

Technology Rich Classrooms is a program that is funded by Title II.D competitive grants and sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education. Districts that receive the grants have a chance to transform four classrooms in their district, grades three to six, into technology rich classrooms. The classrooms are equipped with a wide variety of technology including a Smartboard, media projector, digital still camera, printer, scanner, Internet access, software to support instruction, and a computer for every two students. This technology, along with extensive and ongoing professional development, has proven to be a successful formula for improving learning in both math and reading.

This presentation discusses the research being done to prove that Technology Rich Classrooms perform better academically than high-quality classrooms that do not utilize technology as a tool to enhance learning. Visit the TRC Web site for complete details about the program. If you are interested in duplicating this program in your district, ALTEC can help. Please contact us at 785 864 0699.

Mathematics Video Games for Third Graders

Presented by Doug Adams

Web sites: <http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com>

Paper: http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/program/search_results_details.php?sessionid=43613340&selection_id=48067929&rownumber=1&max=5&gopage=

Presenters discussed the research behind Arcademic Skill Builders, a library of online games designed to improve basic skills in math and language arts by building “fluency” and “automaticity.” Presenting math skills in a video game format causes students to become highly motivated to learn and improve their skills because they want to improve their scores. This presentation allowed participants to play single- and multi-player online math games and discuss their use to improve math skills and support instruction. Read the paper for complete details about the research behind Arcademic Skill Builders, then visit the Web site to read teacher success stories and play the games yourself to decide if they would be a good resource to support your instruction.



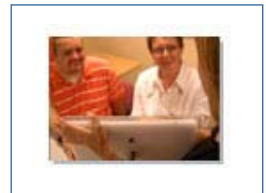
The Effectiveness of Technology Integration Professional Development: A Meta Analysis

Presented by Gail Tieman

Paper: http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/program/search_results_details.php?sessionid=43627005&selection_id=48067929&rownumber=7&max=12&gopage=

This presentation is a meta analysis of 10 studies which were chosen from an initial pool of 65 studies of the effectiveness of technology integration professional development. Because there is a lack of research in this area, the purpose of the study was to glean as much information as possible from the research that is available. Research methods, results and expectations, and educational or scientific importance are discussed.

If any of these presentations sound interesting to you, please visit the Web sites to learn more. You are also welcome to send questions or comments to our presenters at info@altec.org.



Professional Development is essential to integrate technology in education.



\$2.7 Billion in Funding Released to States Early



In order to relieve the burden of budget pressures, the Secretary of Education announced on July 1 that \$2.4 billion in funding was released to states that have completed their Phase I applications for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The remaining \$316 million in funds will be released as states that are approved for Phase I applications complete their applications. Eight billion dollars of those funds are designated to allow states flexibility in addressing budget shortfalls in the areas of education, school modernization, public safety, and other government programs.

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STIMULUS FUNDING: HOW TO STAY INFORMED

Funding for the Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) program was much lower than expected in the president's proposed FY10 budget released in May. Funding was cut to \$100 million, a 62 percent decrease from last year's \$269 million in funding. Staying informed of the changes in educational funding can be difficult. Here are a few resources that you can bookmark to help you stay informed of the latest news in educational funding.

U.S. Department of Education

Web site: <http://ed.gov>

This is a great resource for the latest press releases, news, and announcements about stimulus funding. Visit the Web site to find out the latest news about when funds will be released to states, grant opportunities, and new programs for education.

ISTE

Web site: <http://iste.org>

The International Society for Technology in Education, is an organization dedicated to the use of technology in education for students in PK-12. The Web site contains thousands of resources including the latest legislative news, professional development resources, edtech conference information, books, publications, and a number of services such as needs assessment, evaluation, and grant proposal development. Articles and information are searchable and archived for several years so if there is a topic you would like to research this is a great resource.

ETAN

Web site: <http://edtechactionnetwork.org>

The EdTechActionNetwork was created by ISTE to serve as a direct link to Washington for educators. Visit the site to read the latest legislative news, communicate with your state and federal representatives, and find tutorials and training to help you become a powerful advocate for technology in education. ETAN is a way for you to stay involved in the efforts to promote innovative uses of technology to improve student learning.

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.



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/>

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/>

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.

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SEND COMMENTS AND **FEATURE IDEAS TO:**

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