



Utah Coalition for Educational Technology

ISTE Affiliate • Special Edition Newsletter for December 2005

A Special Edition Newsletter...

Yes, I know you've already received your December newsletter, but there were so many great opportunities: grants, student competitions, and teacher resources crossing my desk that I just had to share them with you. I subscribe to many educational technology related newsletters and journals such as Edutopia, eSchool News, THE Journal (Technological Horizons in Education), i.e - interactive educator, Presentations, and more. They were piling up, as they usually do until I can get around to reading them. When I did, I found many items that would be of interest to educators, some of them with deadlines coming up soon. Rather than wait until the January UCET newsletter, may I share them with you now?

As always, I'd love to get some feedback from you. Have the new UCET newsletters been useful to you? Are there topics you'd like us to explore in future editions? Are there wonderful teacher treasures you'd like to share with the UCET community? My email is Nathan.Smith@usu.edu

Toshiba and the NSTA join to offer the ExploraVision Competition

Link: <http://www.exploravision.org/2005/home.htm>

Deadline: January 31, 2006

ExploraVision is a competition for all students in grades K-12 attending a public, private or home school in the U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories. It is designed to encourage students to combine their imagination with their knowledge of science and technology to explore visions of the future. Teams of students select a technology, research how it works and why it was invented, and then project how that technology may change in the future. They must then identify what breakthroughs are required for their vision to become a reality and describe the positive and negative consequences of their technology on society. Winning ideas have focused on things as simple as ballpoint pens and as complex as satellite communications. The student teams write a paper and draw a series of Web page graphics to describe their idea. Regional winners make a Web site and a prototype of their future vision.

ExploraVision is more than a contest. It can be a spark to ignite every student's enthusiasm for science. For example, the teachers at East Literature Magnet School in Nashville, Tennessee, teamed together to have every one of their 300 students in grades 6-12 participate in ExploraVision. As part of preparing entries for the contest, the teachers and parents created a Saturday "East ExploraVision Symposium." The student teams presented their projects before a panel of four, including a non-science teacher, a parent, a community representative, and an expert in science and technology. Every student had the experience of participating in a science forum, gaining valuable scientific experience, and developing their verbal presentation skills.



Intel Teach to the Future: Workshop on Teaching Thinking With Technology

Looking for ideas to help you use technology to motivate and inspire? The Intel® Teach to the Future Workshop on Teaching Thinking with Technology provides face-to-face, hands-on experiences with interactive thinking tools that engage students and help them to communicate their understanding of complex concepts.

Building on the ideas of effective technology integration and student inquiry, this modular workshop focuses on using technology to enhance higher-order thinking skills. Research shows that effective professional development resulting in lasting change must be sustained over time, with follow up and continuing support for participating teachers. This workshop offers teachers with intermediate-level technology integration skills (Intel® Teach to the Future Essentials Course or equivalent) an opportunity to enhance these skills, using **FREE** online tools.

Through this workshop, teachers will:

- Examine a framework for thinking skills and identify those that are most relevant to curricular goals
- Learn instructional strategies for addressing and assessing thinking skills using technology Support deeper understanding of core content
- Use online tools for visual representation of student thinking
- Create a unit plan using online projects that are aligned to state and national standards and support project-based learning and authentic inquiry
- Leave prepared to effectively implement a ready-to-use project that engages students and helps them to communicate their understanding of complex concept

How to Get Involved: Teaching Thinking with Technology incorporates a train-the-trainer model. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) apply to participate in the Intel® Teach to the Future In-Service Program. They select Master Teachers (MTs) who have strong computer and technology integration skills to attend the workshop. These MTs then return to their LEA to recruit and train Participant Teachers (PTs).

Master Teacher Information: Master Teachers (MTs) play a key role in delivering the Intel® Teach to the Future Workshop on Teaching Thinking with Technology. Master Teachers must be experienced in unit and lesson plan design. They must have intermediate computer skills and strong technology integration skills (those learned in the Intel® Teach to the Future Essentials Course or equivalent). Master Teachers recruit Participant Teachers, set up the workshop, train a minimum of 10 Participant Teachers, and assist in program evaluation.

Participant Teacher Information: Participant Teachers (PTs) are typically classroom teachers with intermediate computer skills and intermediate technology integration skills. These teachers are able to return to their classrooms with a ready-to-use project plan, aligned to state and national standards, that engages students and helps them to communicate their understanding of interconnected and complex issues.

Utah Contact: Lisa Cohne - lcohne@media.utah.edu - (801) 581-5127 - Link: <http://www.intel.com/education>



Technology Grant News

Those seeking grant funding for technology in their school, library, or district should have a look at the Technology Grant News website. Subscriptions are \$35 for electronic delivery, and \$85 for electronic and print delivery (yearly). One section you can freely browse is the Grants Index section, which will take you to the site's highlighted grant opportunities.

Link: <http://www.technologygrantnews.com/>



ING Unsung Heroes Award

ING Unsung Heroes began 10 years ago as a way for ING to demonstrate its commitment to the education community. The awards are given to K-12 educators pioneering new teaching methods and techniques that improve learning.

Each year, educators submit applications for an ING Unsung Heroes award by describing projects they have initiated or would like to pursue. Each project is judged on its:

Innovative method

Creativity

Ability to positively influence the students

Each year, 100 finalists are selected to receive a \$2,000 award, payable to both the winning teacher and his or her school. At least one award is granted in each of the 50 states, provided at least one qualified application was received from each state. Winners are selected by Scholarship America, a national non-profit educational support and student aid service organization.

Of the 100 finalists, three are selected for additional financial awards: \$25,000 for first place; \$10,000 for second place; and \$5,000 for third place. The top winners are selected by ING's Educators Advisory Board, consisting of six distinguished educators from across the United States.

If you or someone you know leads or has an idea for an outstanding educational project, we encourage you to apply for the ING Unsung Heroes awards program today. You can download a PDF version of the latest application.(pdf 636kb).

Link: <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/stellent2/groups/dc/documents/companylobinformation/001143.pdf>

Contact Scholarship America via email or by phone at (800) 537-4180. Or ask your local ING representative for more information. **The deadline for the 2006 application is May 1, 2006.** Winners are announced in the fall.

Link: <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/communityconnections/ineducation/unsungheroes/001137.html>

Toyota Tapestry Grant

Link: <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/howtoapply.asp>

Over the past 14 years, the Toyota TAPESTRY grant program, sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and administered by the National Science Teachers Association, has awarded 552 grants totaling over \$5 million to teachers in the United States and U.S. Territories. This year, 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each and a minimum of 20 "mini-grants" of \$2,500 each are available to K-12 teachers of science. To apply for funding, qualified teachers must write a Toyota TAPESTRY proposal and submit it for receipt at NSTA by **January 19, 2006.**

Eligibility: Open to K-12 teachers of science residing in the United States or U.S. territories or possessions. All middle and high school science teachers and elementary teachers who teach some science in the classroom are eligible. "Science teacher" is defined as anyone who spends at least 50% of his/her classroom time teaching science or teaches a minimum of two science classes per day. Elementary teachers who teach science in a self-contained classroom setting or as teaching specialists are eligible.

Program Summary: Proposals must describe a project including its potential impact on students, and a budget up to \$10,000 (up to \$2,500 for mini-grants). Toyota TAPESTRY grants will be awarded in three categories:

Environmental Science Education

Physical Science Applications

Literacy and Science Education

The Environmental Science Education category funds projects that emphasize the efficient use of natural resources and protection of the environment. Students participating in these projects should gain an increased awareness of the terrestrial, aquatic, and/or atmospheric environment and an understanding of their own interdependence with the natural world.

The Physical Science Applications category includes projects that relate the laws, principles, and concepts of science (physics and chemistry) to phenomena and events relevant to students' lives. Physical Science Application projects should involve the students' own experiences and interests. Unique ways of applying science to technology and making physical science more accessible to students are encouraged.

The Literacy and Science Education category will focus on the development of literacy skills in the context of science teaching and learning. Projects will be funded that highlight

techniques and practices that embed literary strategies in inquiry-based science instruction and support improved science achievement.

Awards Given: Recipients of Toyota TAPESTRY grants will be notified via Federal Express in March 2006. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by May 2, 2006. Fifty grants of up to \$10,000 each will be awarded for the 2006 competition. The 50 project directors will be flown to Dallas for the Awards Banquet held during the NSTA National Convention. All travel expenses for the Project Director will be paid by Toyota.

A minimum of 20 “mini-grants” of \$2,500 each will be awarded. Project Directors of the mini-grants will receive a one-year membership to NSTA or a one-year renewal.

Outdoor Classroom Grant Program

The purpose of this grant is to provide outdoor, hands-on science education to students in grades K-12 and assist schools in enhancing their core curriculum in all subjects.

Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer! classroom magazine have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant program to provide schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. All K-12 public schools in the United States are welcome to apply.

This school year, the program will award grants up to \$2,000 to at least 100 schools. In some cases, grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. The grants can be used to build a new outdoor classroom or to enhance a current outdoor classroom at the school.

This program only considers outdoor classroom proposals. Please submit all other grant proposals for community improvement projects and K-12 public school initiatives to the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation at <http://www.lowes.com/community>.

Link: <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html>



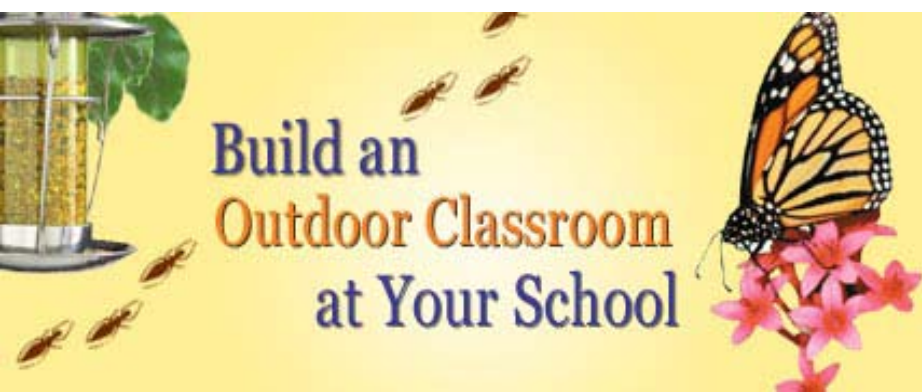
Advancing Student Achievement Grant

The Actuarial Foundation’s Advancing Student Achievement Grant offers substantial funds for developing programs that use actuaries in mentoring and teaching mathematics to public or private K-12 schoolchildren. Applicants may request up to \$25,000, though the average grant amount is \$20,000, for a two- to-three-year program. **There is no application deadline for this grant.** For more information, visit <http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/grant/index.html>

From the website: “The Actuarial Foundation – through its Advancing Student Achievement Mentoring program – awards monetary grants to schools and groups throughout the United States and Canada. The basic requirement for schools or groups seeking funding is that they develop a viable mentoring program involving actuaries in the teaching of mathematics to children in private and public schools.

Advancing Student Achievement is a grant program that brings together actuaries and educators in local classroom environments with the belief that interaction with real-world mentors will boost students interest and achievement in math. The Actuarial Foundation can provide a local network of actuaries ready to participate, as well as suggestions on how to integrate math concepts from the workplace into the classroom. Groups applying for grants will be given wide latitude in designing programs that enhance learning and create a “love of math” in each student.”

(Source: Edutopia Newsletter)



The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation's Melody Program pays for musical instruments and repairs for existing K-12 school music programs that lack other sources of funding to fill these needs. In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the foundation is offering support to ensure that schools enrolling relocated students have enough instruments for these students to continue music studies.

Schools whose students qualify for financial assistance, and whose music programs lack institutional monetary support, will receive priority consideration. **Applications are accepted continuously.** For more information, visit <http://www.mhopus.org>. (Source: Edutopia Newsletter)

EarthWatch Educator Fellowships

Educator fellowships for EarthWatch science expeditions, in which successful applicants travel with a team of volunteers to work with leading scientists on their research and conservation efforts, are selected based on financial need, funding in the applicant's geographic region, and the benefits that would result from participating on an EarthWatch expedition. For more information, visit <http://www.earthwatch.org/education/educator/fellowships/apply.html>, and browse the list of expeditions at <http://www.earthwatch.org/expedselect.html>.

Educator fellowships are awarded through a competitive application process. Applications are considered based on available funding in the applicant's geographic region, financial need, and the benefits that would result from participating on an Earthwatch expedition. Fellows are assigned to projects according to their interests, skills, availability, project need, and grant restrictions. Contact us directly with any specific questions regarding our review process: 800 -776-0188 ext. 118 or EducationAwards@earthwatch.org

Eligibility

Elementary, middle, and high school educators and administrators of any discipline are eligible to apply for our Education Fellowship Program. We are looking for adventuresome and innovative educators who are interested in natural and cultural conservation, sustainability, and life-long learning.

SparkTop.org Teacher Resource Center

You'll find free student activities and resources to use with SparkTop.org, the first website for kids ages 8-12 with learning difficulties, including learning disabilities and AD/HD. SparkTop.org helps kids who struggle with learning understand that they are smart, have unique talents, and can succeed in school and life.

"SparkTop is a great website! The information is fantastic and the games are awesome. Thanks for helping me honestly discuss learning disabilities with my students!"

- Special Education Teacher, Grades 5-6

Link (Students): <http://www.sparktop.org/>

Link (Teachers): <http://www.sparktop.org/teacher/>

Announcing 2006 Inspired Teacher Scholarships!

Calling all inspired teachers! To support educators with their on-going professional development and to champion the integration of visual learning into the curriculum, Inspiration Software (makers of Kidspiration and Inspiration software) is pleased to offer the eighth annual Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning. Inspiration Software is committed to helping educators use graphic organizers and other visual learning tools to help students develop strong thinking and organizational skills and improve their academic performance. **Deadline for entry: Jan. 31, 2006.**

For 2006, Inspiration Software is offering two types of scholarships (awards of \$750):

1. Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning
2. Inspired Teacher Scholarship Rookie Awards for Visual Learning

Link: <http://www.inspiration.com/scholarship>

Professional development programming for K-12 teachers FREE through their satellite channel and Video On Demand at www.learner.org

Advancing Excellent Teaching in American Schools: Annenberg Media uses media and telecommunications to advance excellent teaching in American schools. This mandate is carried out chiefly by the funding and broad distribution of educational video programs with coordinated Web and print materials for the professional development of K-12 teachers. It is part of The Annenberg Foundation and advances the Foundation's goal of encouraging the development of more effective ways to share ideas and knowledge.

Annenberg Media's multimedia resources help teachers increase their expertise in their fields and assist them in improving their teaching methods. Many programs are also intended for students in the classroom and viewers at home. All Annenberg Media videos exemplify excellent teaching.

Distribution and Audiences

Annenberg Media video programs reach their audiences in three ways. First, they are distributed to schools and other non-commercial community agencies on the organization's own digital satellite channel, called the "Annenberg Channel." Second, they are streamed on demand on the Learner.org Web site. Third, they are distributed for purchase on videocassette and DVD through 1-800-LEARNER and online ordering at Learner.org.

The Annenberg Channel

The Annenberg Channel is a free satellite channel for schools, colleges, libraries, public broadcasting stations, public access channels, and other non-commercial community agencies. It runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and airs the video programs funded by Annenberg Media. It is available free to any agency with a Ku-band satellite dish and a DigiCipher II satellite receiver.

Link: <http://www.learner.org>

A Reminder from Victoria Rasmussen, Professional Development Manager at UEN:

The Utah Education Network (UEN) offers Annenberg classes for credit to Utah educators. They are broadcast on UEN-TV channel 9 every Saturday.

For a schedule, see the annual ITV guide, pages 72 and 73. Or, you can visit the course web site where people can register at: <http://www.uen.org/development/details.do?id=336> You can also contact the UEN-TV workshops facilitator, Jared Covili at jcovili@media.utah.edu or 801-585-5667. Our Winter/Spring schedule just became available December 1, so now is a perfect time to visit our site and register for classes. We'll be starting a new session with 9 workshops on January 7.

The screenshot shows the Annenberg Media website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation options like "Browse Teacher Resources" with filters for "by Discipline" and "by Grade". Below this is a "Professional Development" section with a list of workshops and courses, including "The Art of Teaching the Arts", "The Arts in Every Classroom", "Assessment in Math and Science", "Connecting with the Arts", "Conversations in Literature", "Critical Issues in School Reform", and "Developing Writers". To the right of this list are three featured video libraries: "Social Studies in Action: A Teaching Practices Library, K-12", "The Arts in Every Classroom: A Video Library, K-5", and "American Passages: A Literary Survey". Below these are buttons for "Watch This Program" and "Spotlight" on "Social Studies in Action: A Teaching Practices Library, K-12". At the bottom right, there is a "Channel User Spotlight - Richland, WA" section with a "More News..." link. The footer contains links for "Privacy Policy", "Contact Us", "Site Map", and "Site Tour".

Just for Teachers

You're devoting your time and talents to teaching others - here's some information to help you learn how to save and invest wisely.

Link: <http://www.sec.gov/investor/teachers.shtml>

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has launched a "Just for Teachers" section on its Web site to assist public school teachers in grades K-12 evaluate and select appropriate investments for employer-sponsored 403(b) retirement savings plans and other savings vehicles. The site explains 403(b) retirement savings plans, provides general information about saving and investing wisely, and includes tips and resources for teaching personal finance in the classroom. While all of the materials are available online, teachers can also request a free "teacher care package" that consists of SEC educational brochures on mutual funds, variable annuities, and other investing topics.

You'll also find "Tips and Talking Points" - a guide for teachers and parents to help young people learn about saving and investing.

(Source: THE Journal Weekly Newsletter)

What's Your Story? Read, Write, and Share with Weekly Reader

Link: <http://www.weeklyreader.com/wys/weeklywriter.asp>

America's master of horror, Stephen King, has joined students to write a serial story for "The Weekly Writer" section of the Weekly Reader's Web site. King penned the opening lines of a scary tale titled "The Furnace," which was posted online in late September, and now students are encouraged to submit their entries on the site in order to continue the story. Over the next year,

children's authors R.L. Stine and Jane Yolen have also agreed to participate in the project.

(Source: THE Journal Weekly Newsletter)



Curriculum Associates Offers Free Online Course for Motivating Students

Curriculum Associates, a leading publisher of research-based supplemental curriculum materials and tools for today's diverse classrooms, is now offering teachers a free online professional development course with techniques that generate enthusiasm for learning within students. The e-training course, "Motivating Students to Learn," consists of three lessons: an explanation of the theory behind motivation; an outline of five areas or practices that enhance motivation with audio quotes from teachers and students; and teacher-tested activities, games, and lesson plans designed to increase motivation. The lessons also include text and audio instruction, downloadable examples, handouts and checklists, reading assignments, and lesson reviews with open-ended questions that enable teachers to assess their current skills as well as their understanding of the lesson.

The course is available at <http://www.curriculumassociates.com/catraining/Motivation/index.htm>

(Source: THE Journal Weekly Newsletter)

Free English Lessons

Link: <http://www.talkenglish.com>

TalkEnglish.com provides free lessons for students (or anyone) looking for help in speaking English fluently. The site's "click, listen, and repeat" feature allows students to click on any of its 5,000 audio files, listen to a native English speaker, and repeat after the audio segment. There is also an interactive conversation tool on the site that enables students to engage in a practice conversation by using the hundreds of conversation dialogs in the database. In addition, students can upload a voice recording to be analyzed by a native English speaker who will then provide personalized feedback.

(Source: THE Journal Weekly Newsletter)



Free classroom kit from Teaching Tolerance site

Link: <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=365>

Teaching Tolerance is offering free classroom activities to commemorate the courageous life of Rosa Parks and other women before her who fought for freedom. The site provides age-appropriate lessons for early, middle, and upper grades; exclusive Web-based classroom activities; and information on ordering a free educational kit that includes the 40-minute Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks documentary and a viewers' guide with classroom activities.

(Source: THE Journal Weekly Newsletter)



HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative: 2006 Grant Opportunities Now Available

Link: http://grants.hp.com/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html

HP believes that technology, when used effectively in teaching, can have a positive impact on student learning.

The HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative is designed to support the innovative use of mobile technology in K-16 education, and to help identify K-12 public schools and two- and four-year colleges and universities that HP might support with future grants. Based on the outcomes of the projects funded through this initiative in 2006, HP may offer some grant recipients additional, higher-value grants in 2007.

In 2006, HP will award over \$8 million in cash and equipment to schools in the U.S. and Puerto Rico through the HP Technology for Teaching Program, including reinvestment for projects previously funded.

In the U.S. the HP Technology for Teaching initiative encompasses a total investment of more than \$21 million since 2004, impacting 329 kindergarten through 12th grade public schools and 73 two- and four-year colleges and universities engaged in transforming teaching and learning through the integration of technology in the classroom and beyond. HP's total commitment to the HP Technology for Teaching Program for 2004-06 is approximately \$35 million worldwide.

RFPs, Timeline and Process: Requests for Proposals (RFPs), with specific details about the grant goals and application process, are available now. Return to the site on Monday, January 2, 2006 to begin the application process. **Wednesday February 15, 2006, 5 p.m. (Pacific time): Deadline for submitting proposals.** Award announcements will be made no later than May 1, 2006 and a list of the award recipients will be available on this site.

Science Explorations Website

Link: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/explorations/>

Scholastic and the American Museum of Natural History have launched this Science Explorations site to help promote science literacy among students in grades 3-10. The site offers an exciting, new way for young scientists to visit animals in their natural habitat, learn about recent discoveries, interact with real scientists from the museum, uncover clues in online investigations and activities, and keep records of their discoveries in their own field journals. In addition, science teachers are provided with an interactive way to supplement lessons that support students' development of key science and cross-curricular skills. (Source: THE Journal Weekly Newsletter)

