



ED REVIEW

September 1, 2000

...a bi-weekly update on Education Department activities relevant to the Intergovernmental and Corporate community



TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCES

Interested in educational technology? Several upcoming conferences will highlight how communities are successfully using technology to improve teaching and learning:

- The Secretary's Conference on Educational Technology 2000 is scheduled for September 11 and 12 in Northern Virginia. Each state has nominated a school or school district to participate. Featured speakers include Eric Benhamou, chairman and CEO of 3Com, Barbara Means of SRI, and Kevin Warner of Cisco Systems, as well as Secretary Riley. Then, on September 13, American University will host an International Forum on Distance Learning, with the theme "Strengthening Learning through Technology." Unfortunately, registration is already closed for both; however, Kidz Online (a local non-profit dedicated to reducing the Digital Divide) will be webcasting the conference (assisted on streaming video by Apple and Akamai). FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/Technology/techconf/2000/>.
- The Center for Innovative Learning Technologies (CILT) is holding its annual conference October 26-29 in McLean, Virginia. This year's focus is on technology, equity, and K-14 learning. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://www.cilt.org/html/cilt_2000.html.
- The ASPIRA Association, a national non-profit organization devoted to the education and leadership development of Latino youth, is planning its first annual Technology in Education Conference ("Technology, the Internet, and the Future of Education") for December 17-20 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://www.aspira.org/news_nj.html#itconf.

Note: On September 21, the Department's Office of Corporate Liaison will host a dialogue in San Francisco between technology companies and education leaders. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Lara Brown @ (202) 401-2932.



TECHNOLOGY GRANT AWARD

On August 28, Secretary Riley announced \$10.6 million in new grants that will enable adults to learn virtually around-the-clock from wherever they are through the use of technology. Under Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships (LAAP), colleges work with each other and public and private businesses and organizations to expand access to high-quality learning opportunities students can access "anytime, anywhere" -- for example, through the Internet. This is particularly important to individuals who have limited access to a traditional college campus because of their geographic location, a physical disability, or because of scheduling conflicts created by competing demands of work and family. For example, the University of Wisconsin system will work with a migrant services agency and food processing companies to offer online remedial courses, mentoring, and career training and counseling to migrant workers and their families and to Native Americans. 29 colleges, businesses, and organizations received similar grants in 1999. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/08-2000/0828.html>.



RURAL EDUCATION REPORT

A new report released on August 29 by the Rural School and Community Trust (RSCT) and highlighted by Secretary Riley and RSCT President Rachel Thompkins on the America Goes Back to School Bus Tour through the Mississippi Delta region calls for policymakers to pay attention to rural education issues across the U.S. "Why Rural Matters: The Need for Every State to Take Action on Rural Education" compiles and analyzes data on rural America, for the first time ever, and suggests that rural education is far more important than Americans would think from listening to the education policy debate (which focuses primarily on inner-cities and suburbs). According to the report, which is geared to state-level education policymakers and the rural people they serve, 10 states, all in the Deep South, Appalachia, and Great Plains, stand out as being in critical need of rural education policy attention -- and every state can improve the policy climate within which its rural schools operate. One-fourth of all the nation's children attend public schools in rural areas or small towns. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ruraledu.org/streport.html>.

Also: On September 5, the Brookings Institution's Brown Center on Education Policy will release a new report, "How Well are American Students Learning." The purpose of the report (to be revised annually) is four-fold: to report on the direction of public school achievement; to determine the significance of any change; to uncover the policies and practices influencing the direction of student achievement; and to figure out whether the public is getting the complete story on student learning. The report will also go into depth on a theme; this year's theme is mathematics achievement. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://www.brookings.edu/gb/brown/brown_hp.htm.



COMMUNITY UPDATE: EARLY CHILDHOOD

The September issue of "Community Update," the Education Department's monthly newsletter that reaches over 268,000 parents, educators, and other citizens involved in school improvement efforts, focuses on early childhood education. Inside, you can read articles on making early literacy a family affair, using technology to provide training for early childhood educators, and ordering federal resources to help families get their young ones ready to learn. The issue also spotlights the Double Oaks Pre-Kindergarten and Family Resource Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, and offers (1) tips on what to look for in a pre-school (from the National Center on Early Development and Learning) and (2) activities for engaging pre-schoolers (from the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts). FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/G2K/community/>. (Note: the issue will be available online starting Wednesday, September 6.)



FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Want a say in the Department's direction over the next five years? From now until September 11, you can review and comment on a draft of the Education Department's Strategic Plan 2001-2005. The strategies in this plan were built from the Department's mission to "ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation" and help to identify agency-wide issues that need to be addressed. The plan is subdivided into four goals: (1) build a solid foundation for learning for all children; (2) reform the U.S. education system to help make it the best in the world; (3) ensure access for all to postsecondary education and life-long learning;

and (4) make the Education Department a high-performance organization. Comments can be submitted either electronically or in writing. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/DraftStratPlan/>.



TEACHER RECRUITMENT

In his weekly radio address last Saturday, President Clinton announced a new online teacher recruitment clearinghouse to help schools and districts find the more than two million qualified teachers the nation will need over the next decade. The web site, <http://www.recruitingteachers.org/>, is a one-stop source of information about recruitment and offers practical resources for recruiters, teachers seeking jobs, prospective teachers, and school districts seeking ways to retain teachers. States and districts can add their job opening information to the clearinghouse by completing a short questionnaire.



ALL CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT

"In visiting these schools [along the Mississippi River], I find a lot of imagination, a lot of excitement, a lot of just plain hard work. School matters to the people of these communities, and it's clear that despite some of their unique challenges the children here can, and I am confident will, succeed. We may have small towns, but we have no small minds. All children are important. We need to pull together, in a responsible, bipartisan way, to make sure that every child has access to a quality education."

-- Secretary Riley (8/29/00)

<http://www.ed.gov/successexpress/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Department's Partnership for Family Involvement in Education (PFIE), now over 6,000 partners strong, will hold regional meetings on the third day of each Improving

America's Schools conference: Sacramento, CA (9/18-20), Louisville, KY (10/2-4), and Washington, D.C. (12/13-15). The meetings will feature a plenary speaker and four hands-on sessions on: preparing teachers and other professionals to involve parents; involving business and community organizations in early childhood; developing after-school programs; and building partnerships with faith communities. In addition, participants can receive and exchange resources at a Networking and Materials Fair and America's Promise will offer technical assistance workshops on mobilizing communities. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://pfie.ed.gov/>.

On September 25, at a public event in Washington, D.C., the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans will release its culminating report: "Creating the Will: Hispanics Achieving Educational Excellence." The report describes current efforts and proposed actions to address Latino educational achievement from pre-kindergarten through graduate and professional education. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Richard Toscano @ (202) 401-1411.



LOOSE ENDS...

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Please feel free to contact the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs with any questions:

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