Digital Edge Video Exhibits Demonstrate Accomplished Teaching With Technology

PRESENTERS:

Lajeane Thomas, Ed.D.
ISTE NETS Project Director
Louisiana Tech University
e-mail: lthomas@latech.edu

Dianne Porter Lord, M.Ed.
ISTE NETS Executive Assistant
Louisiana Tech University
e-mail: dporter@latech.edu

Abstracts:
The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) NETS Project, Apple Computer, and AT&T have joined forces in the Digital Edge Project to develop new electronic learning environments where teaching resources and collaboration can occur. These resources will be used to strengthen the mentoring relationship between the preservice teacher and experienced educators who guide them through the capstone student teaching and field experiences. While addressing the NBPTS standards and the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS), the Digital Edge Project environment will provide a communications vehicle for a cohort made up of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs), university and K-12 faculties, and preservice teachers at each of the four collaborating university partners: California State University, San Marcos; George Mason University, Louisiana Tech University, and Morgan State University.

Summary:
The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) NETS Project, Apple Computer, and AT&T have joined forces to develop new electronic learning environments where teaching resources and collaboration can occur. These resources will be used to strengthen the mentoring relationship between the preservice teacher and experienced educators who guide them through the capstone student teaching and field experiences. Research has indicated that successful development of new teachers depends heavily on the student teaching experience. Key elements in the success of the new teacher include the collaboration and communication between the student teacher, the university supervisor, and the cooperating teacher; as well as, the models for excellent teaching that the student teacher observes and interacts with during this important phase of preparation. The Digital Edge Project can strengthen key experiences for student teachers by facilitating new strategies for a technology-based learning and communications environment. This environment will provide a communications vehicle for a cohort of highly effective teachers who will guide the student teachers in their development. The project cohorts will develop resources for use in redesigning the student teaching experience at each of the four collaborating university partners: California State University, San Marcos; George Mason University, Louisiana Tech University, and Morgan State University. The digital library of video exhibits shows classroom examples of effective teaching with technology. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) were video taped and have provided support materials for their lessons including their own reflections. Their reflections and those of National Board and ISTE representatives provide insights into the lessons and how those lessons address promising classroom practices as well as NBPTS standards and the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS). The university teams are currently developing curricula for integrating the digital library and will systematically integrate the resources in their teacher preparation coursework first in early childhood and upper elementary; then in middle and secondary grade levels over the course of the project. The strong collaboration among the National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs), university and K-12 faculties, and the preservice teachers will establish new learning environments resulting in future generations of teachers with high professional expectations and abilities related to effective use of technology in the classroom. The presenters are members of the Digital Edge Team. The Digital Edge environment will be demonstrated, and resources shown.