



Utah Coalition for Educational Technology

ISTE Affiliate • Member Newsletter for January 2006

It's Time!

UCET Call for Presenters

The annual Utah Coalition for Educational Technology conference will be held on March 10-11, 2006 at South Hills Middle School. We are looking forward to a great conference. We invite teachers and leaders and others who are doing great things with the curriculum in the classroom or in their schools to submit a proposal to present at the conference. We know there are a lot of you out there and request your participation as a presenter at the conference.

The conference strands include: Power Users, Novice, Language Arts, Fine Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, Innovative Technology, Leadership. Presentation sessions run for 70 or 140 minutes. The registration fee is waived for primary presenters. (If 2 or more are presenting only the 1st registration is waived)

Proposals need to be submitted by February 3rd, 2006. Our presenters make our conference and we look forward to you being a part of it.

Presenter Proposal Link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=793721529645>



If You're Interested in Technology and Education - This is the Conference for You! Register Today and Save!

The 2006 UCET Conference is lining up some great presentations! Conference strands include presentations for power users and novices alike; curriculum focus areas in language arts, fine arts, social studies, math, and science; and sessions on innovative technologies and leadership. We have an exciting keynote speaker, Marc Prensky. Mr. Prensky is an internationally acclaimed speaker, writer, consultant, and designer in the areas of education and learning. If you have heard or read much about Digital Natives (Our Students) vs. Digital Immigrants (Us), you have been exposed to some of Mr. Prensky's thoughts and ideas. He will share with us his message about how to best work with the Natives. Edutopia just published an article of his, entitled "Adopt and Adapt." Go have a look...

Link: http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=Art_1423&issue=dec_05#

Conference fees, which include UCET membership privileges for the year and subscription to the monthly UCET newsletter, are **\$45 if you register online before February 24, 2006.** Registration fee after the deadline will be \$50. There is a special conference pricing for students (you'll need to present your current student ID at the registration booth when you pick up your conference materials). The fee for students registering online before February 24th is \$20. A student fee of \$25 will be charged after the deadline.

Register today at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=729701572799>

Please share UCET 2006 information with your peers!

InfoSource Awards Technology Grants to School Districts Across the U.S.

InfoSource recently named six school districts, representing more than 50 elementary, middle, and high schools, that will receive the Integrating Technology in the Classroom Grant, designed to accelerate learning through the innovative use of technology. InfoSource has extended the grant program and plans to award approximately 50 more grants (up to \$2.5 million in product value) in 2006.

The InfoSource Integrating Technology in the Classroom Grant Program aims at supporting “in need” school districts by providing the tools and technology needed to improve digital literacy skills for both teachers and students, simplify and enhance the learning process, and make computers and the Internet an integral part of the classroom. The purpose is to provide qualified districts with the How to Master Learn It! Build It! Share It! suite of online tools and technology training. With dial-up or broadband Internet access and the Learn It! Build It! Share It! suite faculty, staff, and students can access online computer and Internet skills training, testing, assignments, grade books, reporting, chat rooms, discussion boards, file sharing, a lesson plan builder, and a lesson plan library. The suite also contains a simple-to-use content authoring tool and test builder so teachers can easily create their own online training and tests. Additionally, parental involvement programs can easily be developed allowing them to view their children’s progress, grades, and activities.

Link: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2005/12/prweb320479.htm>

Source: THE Newsletter for December 14, 2005

Earth Calendar - Celebrate Every Day!

The Earth Calendar is a daybook of holidays and celebrations around the world. For the purpose of this web site a “holiday” is any day that recognizes a cultural event. Click the ‘Today’ button to view holidays observed on this date. Or use the tabs at the top to navigate by date, country and religion. The Earth Calendar is a non-profit website.

Link: <http://www.earthcalendar.net/>

Source: THE Newsletter for December 14, 2005

Digital History - Using New Technologies to Enhance Teaching and Research

Digital History was designed and developed to support the teaching of American History in K-12 schools and colleges and is supported by the Department of History and the College of Education at the University of Houston. The site provides a U.S. history textbook, essays, documents, maps, photos, audio files, and more for teachers and students of American history in schools and colleges.

Link: <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>

Source: THE Newsletter for December 14, 2005

U.S. Bank Internet Scholarship Program

For the past nine years, U.S. Bank scholarships have helped students fund their education. This year, they continue the tradition through their Internet Scholarship Program, which will award up to thirty \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors entering college next fall. **They will accept applications through February 28, 2006.** There’s no time like the present, so apply today! The Internet Scholarship Program is exclusively for high school seniors graduating in the 2005-2006 school year. Winners will be selected at random.

Link: http://www.usbank.com/cgi_w/cfm/studentloans/marketing.cfm

Space Day 2006 Design Challenges - Living and Working on the Moon

From the Space Day website: “Are your students looking for a project that’s exciting, lets them work with friends, lets them use their creativity and imagination, and build and design something really cool?”

Then you’ve found it.

The Space Day 2006 Design Challenges lets your students become scientists, engineers, and explorers working on the space frontier to design a totally unique solution to some “out-of-this-world” challenges. Using the Moon or any planet, moon, comet, or asteroid in our Solar System as the launching point for exploration, students can choose from among:

Cosmic Cuisine: Create a well-balanced meal for one pre-teenaged crew member, including recipes. The meal must be tasty, nutritious, and meet 1/3 of the daily requirements on the food pyramid for a teenager. The food packaging system must be leak-proof and spill-proof. This Challenge is for students in Grade 4.

Stretch and Fetch: Design a mechanical device that astronauts can quickly and easily operate that allows them to retrieve an object that is out of reach. The model retriever design must be able to extend at least 100 centimeters beyond its size when closed or collapsed. This Challenge is for students in Grade 5.

X-Treme Fitness: Develop more entertaining equipment and interesting ways to exercise in microgravity. Create a piece of exercise equipment for astronauts exploring a planet or moon in our Solar System. This equipment must help them keep bone mass and muscle tone. Any equipment designed must be compact and lightweight and include instruction manuals. This Challenge is for students in Grade 6.

Galactic Gear: Design and build a tool that can be used to explore and/or survive on another planet. The tool should have more than one use and be compact enough for an explorer to easily carry. This Challenge is for students in Grade 7 and Club-based groups.

Extreme Explorer: Design an exploration vehicle that can explore a region on another planet or moon in our Solar System. Decide what information you want to collect about the planet, and determine how your vehicle will gather that information. This Challenge is for students in Grade 8 and Home School students.

Space Trek: Keep an electronic journal about a planet or moon in our Solar System that includes expedition plans, as well as several daily entries about exploring this new environment. This Challenge is for students in Grade 4-5 or 6-8.

The Space Day Design Challenges are open to students in grades 4-8, and will be grouped into 9 categories. Club-based groups may only submit Galactic Gear Design Challenges and Home School groups may only submit Extreme Explorer Design Challenges. Teams that submit solutions received by February 1, 2006, will be considered for national recognition and receive a certificate of appreciation.

Stellar Design Challenge teams will be selected by the Space Day Educational Advisory Committee and recognized at the Space Day Opening Ceremony on Thursday, May 4, 2006, in Washington, D.C.”

Link: <http://www.spaceday.org/conmngmt/index.php?option=displaypage&Itemid=229&op=page&SubMenu>

Deadline: Feb. 1, 2006



Reading Lists from Questia

Questia Media Inc. has developed a new program called Reading Lists, which are librarian-selected resources such as articles and books on popular topics, organized by subject and grade level. After specifying search criteria, a list appears of all the available Reading Lists. Each list contains five or more books or articles related to the topic. The material on the Web site provides both students and teachers with knowledge that can be utilized in a variety of ways such as for background research, project resources, and required or assigned reading materials.

At present, the readings lists are organized into the following topics for grades 9-12: American History, American Literature, World History, and World Literature.

Link: http://www.questia.com/library/rl_cat

Source: *THE Newsletter for December 7, 2005*

Additional Food for Thought: Professor in Your Pocket

It was interesting to receive my Newsweek magazine just after distributing the recent UCET newsletter on podcasting. In the November 28, 2005 issue, Peg Tyre wrote an article entitled "Professor in Your Pocket," which addresses some of the pros and cons of what she calls "coursecasting". Coursecasts are podcasts where professors or teachers have recorded their class and then made them available online. I think you'll find it to be interesting reading. Have a look at the article...

Link: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10117475/site/newsweek/>



Announcing the UELMA Conference

UELMA will be hosting their spring conference Thursday, March 2, 2006.

It will be held at the Davis Conference

Center. Author and professional storyteller, Rafe Martin, will be their keynote speaker. You can get additional information and registration information at their website.

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



The Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project is a project of the Library of Congress aimed at collecting oral history interviews, memoirs, letters, diaries, photographs, and other original materials from veterans of World Wars I and II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present).

Link: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

Source: *THE Newsletter for October 26, 2005*

Hurricane

This NASA online educational activity for grades 5-8 will allow students to investigate the causes of hurricanes and how they are named and categorized, then practice tracking one across the Atlantic Ocean.

Link: http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/5-8/features/F_Hurricane.html

ERIC Database - The Education Resources Information Center

The Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education, produces the world's premier database of journal and non-journal education literature. The ERIC online system provides the public with a centralized ERIC Web site for searching the ERIC bibliographic database of more than 1.1 million citations going back to 1966. More than 107,000 full-text non-journal documents (issued 1993-2004), previously available through fee-based services only, are now available for free. ERIC is moving forward with its modernization program, and has begun adding materials to the database.

Link: <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>



Book Review: The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century, by Thomas L. Friedman

Dr. Carol Strong, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Utah State University, gave the college's Administrative Council a reading assignment to read *The World is Flat*. I don't think I've ever had a more interesting and enjoyable assignment. The book has some huge implications for education in America.

The premise of the book is that during the past twenty years, the technology foundation was laid that would allow people to collaborate worldwide in ways that have made the world a flatter, much smaller, and more collaborative place. He describes ten flatteners: 1. When the Berlin Wall came down simultaneously to Windows on the PC going global, 2. when Netscape went public, 3. when workflow software began talking to each other, 4. the open-source movement that made tools available globally, 5. outsourcing, 6. offshoring, 7. global supply-chaining, 8. insourcing, 9. in-forming (the knowledge of the entire world at our fingertips), and 10. the steroids that helped these all become digital, mobile, personal, and virtual.

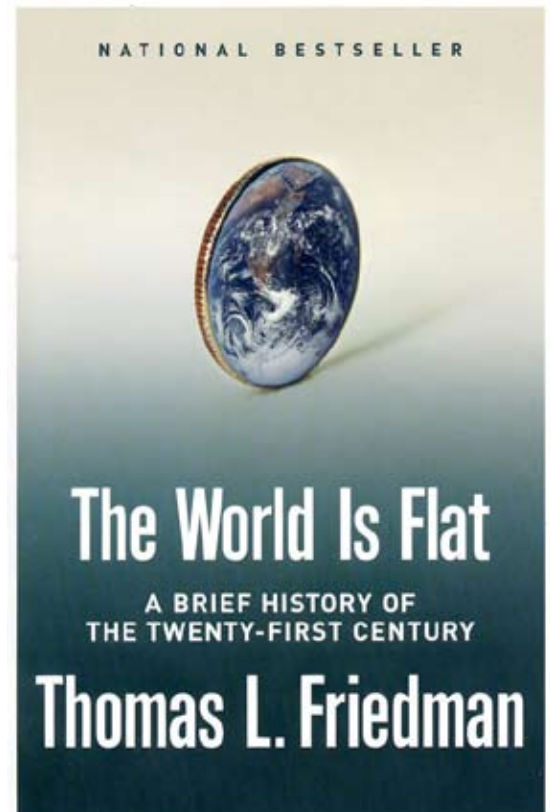
Mr. Friedman describes a triple convergence that's happened in just the past five years, where these technologies have matured, melded and blended together seamlessly. However, new technology is not enough in and of itself. The big spurts in productivity come when a new technology is combined with new ways of doing business. At this same time, three billion new players walked onto the playing field from the former Soviet Union, China, India, Eastern Europe, Latin American, and central Asia. These three convergences have created a whole new platform for doing business horizontally, rather than vertically.

As I mentioned earlier, this has tremendous implications for education and the job market of the future. Mr. Friedman points out that the greatest skillset we can obtain in this age is adaptability, the ability to use our minds to come up with new ways of doing business. He counsels that the ability to "learn how to learn" will be most important. Jobs will no longer be lifetime jobs, but people will need to learn and adapt to changes that will come ever more quickly in the future.

I heartily recommend this book to anyone, as it provides an extremely interesting glimpse into what the future may hold for our children in a flat world where one can do business with someone in China as easily as doing business with your next door neighbor. Being in the business of technology and education, I had seen many of the indicators Mr. Friedman talked about, but I had never put it all together in the way that he does.

If you'd like to hear Mr. Friedman talk about his book at the Library of Congress' Bookfest, you can view a 38 minute webcast that sums up the book very well.

Link: <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/friedman.html>



Library of Congress Bookfest - See Webcasts of Top Authors Reviewing their Work

Would you be interested in watching over a hundred top authors and Pulitzer prize-winners talk about their work? Well you can. Welcome to the Web site for the 2005 National Book Festival. This is the fifth annual National Book Festival and once again they have an outstanding group of authors who joined the Library of Congress on September 24 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to talk about and sign their books. Visit the link below to learn more...

Link: <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/>



Free Classroom Video and Teacher's Guide - The Case of the Physical Fitness Challenge. (For Grades 3-6)



The tree house detectives are eager to win the Presidential Physical Fitness Award, but one of the detectives is not quite up to the challenge. They decide that it is time for a little research to learn more about being fit. They visit NASA to learn more about muscles, bones, and physical activity and why fitness is the key to space exploration.



The NASA SciFiles are a series of hour long videos, each consisting of four 15-minute segments that teach science, math, and technology concepts aligned to national education standards. Each video is accompanied by a teacher's guide, in this case 90 pages of activities, lesson plans, and additional material to help teach the concepts.

You can get your copy of the video at the following link. You need a username (nasamovies) and a password (aesp) to download the .zip file that contains both the movie in DiVX avi format, and the teacher's guide in PDF format. The download is large (245 MB), so allow yourself time for the download (don't try this on a modem). If you'd like a closed-captioned copy of the actual video, you can request one from me (Nathan.Smith@usu.edu) for the cost of the blank videotape for me to record it to plus mailing costs to get it to you.

Link: <http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/videos/dnmovies/NASASCIfiles/index.html>

If for some reason the video won't play on your computer, use the following link to download the free software that will play the movie on your Windows PC or Mac OS X computer:

Link: <http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/videos/dnmovies/index.html>

A&E Biographies for the Classroom

The A&E Network has several hundred Teacher's Guides available to download. These guides are written by teachers and include National Standards correlations, as well as vocabulary words and discussion questions.

A&E also has 25,000 biographies online that students and teachers can access. Many have video clips as well.

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

Link: <http://www.aetv.com/class/>

Link: <http://www.aetv.com/class/bioproject/>

Jan. 6, 2006 A&E TELEVISION NETWORKS

Click here to search the Biography.com database for over 25,000 of the greatest lives, past and present.

Dallas SWAT Rollergirls Knights of the South Bronx Dog The Bounty Hunter SEARCH

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- Media Literacy

THINK LIKE A KING

Knights of the South Bronx
Premiere: December 6th at 8pm/7C
A&E Think Like A King National Chess

Challenge is open to teachers and administrators employed by a U.S. public or private school (grades K-12) or home school group. Enter your school to win a Think Like A King School Chess Software System - enough software to equip every computer at school with all the tools you need to make chess your School Sport - and use chess to teach kids critical thinking skills! Contest ends January 4, 2006 at 11:59 PM. [Click here](#) for Official Entry Guidelines and Contest Rules.

Lives That Make a Difference
Lives That Make A Difference is A&E's national outreach campaign that focuses on people - from all walks of life and all age groups - who have a positive impact on our world. It helps others learn how they can make their local neighborhood or their global community a better place. Through public service or private enterprise, people can make a difference.

TEACHERS' PICKS

- English/Language Arts
- History
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