CECA Newsletter

Connecticut Educators Computer Association   **Vol. XIV No. 4**

CECA EDUCATOR RECOGNITION AWARD
$3000 for Y2K

CECA is proud to announce the establishment of an award recognizing excellence in the application of technology to classroom learning. The amount of the award this year, supported by a grant from Southern New England Telephone, will be $1000 for each of three levels. There will be one award for the elementary level, one for middle school/junior high teachers, and one for those at the senior high school level. All teachers in Connecticut's public or private schools are eligible.

This is a merit award, to be used at the discretion of the winner(s). Each award will go to an individual or be divided among a team. It will not go to a school or organization.

Teams or individuals may submit proposals for recognition of work that has or will make use of computer technology to significantly improve the the learning of students. The learning can be in any domain, in any curriculum area, and at any grade level, K-12. It may be aimed at the professional development of teachers if a clear link to improved learning of students can be shown.

A primary reason that CECA chose to create this award is to stimulate innovative and creative teaching. We believe that the introduction of modern technology in schools provides an opportunity to consider (or reconsider) both what children learn and how they learn. It is fitting for us to find and spotlight those teachers who have seized this opportunity and found new ways to enact the teaching-learning process. Where this will take us is an exciting question. We are sure the CECA award winners will provide some interesting answers, either in exploring new curricular areas or enriching what now exists.

If you are doing something in your classroom that you think is unusual, creative, or, most importantly, helps students learn better than they would without your work, then we urge you to apply for this award.

The work must clearly support the CECA Goals and Vision Statement. Information about CECA (including its Goals and Vision Statement) can be found at our web site, listed on the back page of this newsletter. You can request an application form by fax, mail, or e-mail. This information is also given on the last page.

Proposals for the 2000 award must be postmarked by March 13, 2000. The award will be made by May of this year and presented at the CECA Annual Membership Meeting in June, 2000.

We are deeply appreciative of the support from Tom Buckley and SNET for this project.

If you have specific questions that you feel need an individual response, send email to:
CECACT@aol.com putting CECA Award in the subject line or
fax: 203-239-5730.

Geoff Smith, Chairman Awards Committee

**Important Date

6TH LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPOSITION

The Connecticut Educators' Computer Association (CECA) is sponsoring the Sixth Annual Legislative Technology Exposition on March 30, 2000. We are asking school districts from around the state to send a small group of students (4 students per group) and teachers to the Legislative Office Building to demonstrate to legislators how students use technology to support the learning process.

Groups are needed from all regions of the state and all levels from kindergarten through high school. We are looking for projects from any and all subject areas where technology is used as an integral part of the learning process. Demonstrations should also show how the incorporation of technology into the curriculum supports the skills tested on the CMT and the CAPT and prepares students for future workplace skills. All groups must be preregistered. No groups will be allowed to participate if they have not been pre-approved.

We will need to balance the presentations based on geographic region, topic, time and availability of space but we would like to have as many districts participate as possible. We will be able to accommodate about 30 groups. The demonstrations will be scheduled for 2 hours per group beginning at 9:00 am. The sessions will be from 9:00 am-11:00 am; 11:00 am-1:00 pm; and 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Students will have time to tour the Capitol and see their legislators at work.

An LOB Expo mailing with further details and registration forms will be sent out to state school districts within the next week. For more information contact: Debbie Miller, Canton Public Schools, e-mail address: dmiller@cantonschools.org. Also check our website at www.ceca-ct.org. for further details, possible changes, and registration forms.

This is a short legislative session with many people wanting to demonstrate in the LOB corridor. Please register asap.

The Center for Instructional Technologies is a professional development resource for educators made possible by public television station WGBY57 in Springfield, MA.

Visit website for details: http://www.wgby.org/edu/cit

Winter Schedule:
- February 17 Excel and Visual Basic for Applications
- February 28 Historical Fiction and Technology
- March 1 HyperStudio
- March 8 Math/Science/Technology Family Night
- March 13 Hurricanes Galore
- March 14 Web Design for Technology Leaders
- March 17 National Teacher Training Institute
- April 5 The One Computer Classroom and More

CECA L

During the Holiday week, ACES completed a major network migration including email services. While the project was a successful one, unfortunately parts of the project did not go as smoothly as anticipated, and the listserv's that ACES manages took longer than expected to configure.

IMPORTANT

The listserv CECA-L is now back up and running with one change. The address for the listserv is now

CECA-L@LISTSERV.ACES.K12.CT.US
You will need to use this new address when sending messages out to the participants of this list.

The command to unsubscribe to this list has changed. To unsubscribe send an email from your account to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ACES.K12.CT.US . In the first line of the body of the email type:

SIGNOFF CECA-L

Again, we apologize for the interruption of services. We are hopeful that now that the listserv is back online individuals will be able to access it and use it to it's fullest capacity. If you have problems accessing the list please do not hesitate to call ACES Technology Services at (203)407-4550.

LOB Tech Expo
Thursday
March 30, 2000

CECA 2000

November 6, 2000

Radisson, Cromwell

"Palm Computers Moving from the Workplace to the Classroom,"

Andrew Trotter,
Education Week, 10/27/99,
Vol XIX, No 9, pg 1.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/
ewstory.cfm?slug=09palm.h19

Excerpt: "[T]he little devices can be programmed to run educational games, operate scientific probes, and send and receive data over the Internet ... 'I call it the equity computer, a computer that you can afford to give every child' ... What is lacking is an ample supply of software and hardware for the Palm that is tailored to classroom and educational needs."

ERATE'S YEAR THREE FILING WINDOW CLOSES; APPLICATIONS SET NEW RECORD

The initial filing window for applications covering the third year of the eRate closed on January 19, 2000. The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the group that administers the telecommunications discounts, expects to issue funding commitments by early May, in time for the start of the program's third year on July 1.

During the Year Three filing window, which lasted 71 days, schools and libraries across the country submitted more than 36,000 final applications, surpassing last year's total of 32,000. In the second year that electronic filing was available via the SLD's web site, more than 28,000 applicants electronically submitted their Form 471 applications, tripling last year's total of just over 9,000.

For the complete story, go to: http://www.eschoolnews.org/fundingnews1

The following article was received as a tribute to the memory of CECA Board member, Steve Bombara. Steve served on the CECA Board for over 10 years and was instrumental in establishing the Teacher Exchange Room (now the Internet Cafe) at the CECA Conferences.

STEVE BOMBARA

Pam Berardino

The Windham Public School system is feeling a great loss with the recent passing of technology teacher Steve Bombara. A teacher in the system for twenty-five years, he began his career as a science teacher, and more recently developed and taught the computer education program at Windham Middle School. In addition to many extra-curricular projects, he was an advisor for the Windham Middle and High School TSA program, the Technology Student Association.

There are many things that we could say about Steve, the countless hours that he gave to teaching, the fact that he was always mentoring and sharing his expertise with students and staff, but the sentiments of the TSA students and adults he worked with say it best, so we will leave it to them...

Touched by Your Soul

Our Thoughts on Mr. Stephen F. Bombara by The Windham TSA Family - November 21, 1999

You have touched our souls in so many ways... Your generosity of time, wisdom and devotion to teaching and developing minds of countless children and adults...

And your thirst for creating new adventures and expectations. Perhaps the most special gift of Mr. Bombara has always been the unending help given to all who ask.

Being a master teacher who deeply cares about each and every one of us. Windham Middle School and Windham High School Technology Student Association has been especially touch by your soul.

Mr. Bombara, you are very deeply loved and will always be close to our heart. We have lost a very great friend, mentor and teacher. We have been... touched by your soul... a gift that is timeless and eternal... Thank you, Mr. Bombara for your love and devotion. You are with us forever.

by The Windham TSA Family - November 21, 1999

Steve will be missed greatly by the students and staff of Windham Middle School, but as fine teachers do, he has touched our lives forever.
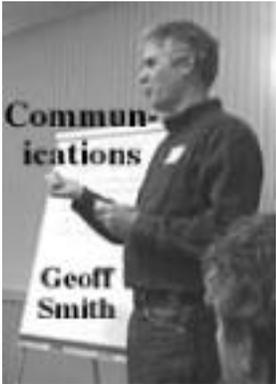
CECA RENEWS ITSELF !

On an extremely cold January 22nd, the CECA Board of DIrectors met at the Water's Edge Inn in Westbrook, CT to revitalize our organization as we move toward our 20th anniversary. Just as technology continues to change, CECA must renew itself. Our retreat was lead by Linette Branham, a Professional Development Coordinator from CEA. She divided twenty-five board members into five discussion groups to look at CECA from different perspectives: mission, purpose and goals; needs and resources; by-laws; finances; and communication. Lively discussions took place throughout the day helped the board look at where we are and where we want to be. Our goal over the next few months, is to adopt changes that will make CECA a vital organization that will continue to be a voice for teachers integrating technology into teaching and learning. Watch our newsletter and web page for future updates.

Needs and Resources — Meryl Menon

Lynette Branham

Communications — Geoff Smith

Denise Moynihan, CECA President introduces Lynette Branham, CEA Retreat Facilitator

Finance — Lefkovich, Bogom, Palmer

Serious Talk — Kalinowski, Esborn

Mission Purpose Goals — Lauri Susi

AND SOME OF THE

WORKER BEES

CHILDNET INTERNATIONAL

From Ernie Anderson

News comes via I*EARN of a Childnet-International award winner here in Connecticut:

Joan Fleitas, USA, Bandaides & Blackboards

A wonderful site produced by a nurse tutor from Connecticut, USA with the aim of improving the quality of life for children growing up with serious medical problems. The site contains children's stories, poetry, a hospital tour as well as advice for parents and siblings of disabled or sick children.

Every hospital in the world should have a link to this site!

The URL is:

http://www.childnet-int.org/awards/ 2000/shortlist/index.html

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION RELEASES STANDARDS

"National Educational Technology Standards for Students: Connecting Curriculum and Technology," provides extensive guidance on technology integration for K-12 teachers in every content area.

With learning activities organized by grade levels, subject areas, and multidisciplinary themes, it presents technology foundation standards for all students. Each activity outline includes performance indicators, references to national content standards, tools and resources, stories and advice from the writers, a summary of what the activity will accomplish, and descriptions of what students will do.

It can be ordered from ISTE for $29.95. For more information or to place an order, phone ISTE at 800-336-5191.

FY 2000 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to use Technology

$48 million in new grants will be awarded to transform teacher education programs into 21st century learning environments

Application Guidelines

Application guidelines for the fiscal year 2000 competition are available and can be downloaded from the program web site

http://www.ed.gov/teachtech.

The Response

To address the challenge of developing technology-proficient future educators, grants awarded under this initiative will support innovations developed by consortia of higher education institutions, state agencies, school districts, nonprofit organizations, and others who are joining forces to transform teacher preparation programs into 21st century learning environments.

Grants will support campus-wide program improvements that transform teacher preparation by infusing technology throughout the educational experience of all future teachers. Increasing learning with modern technologies will require more than just adding new equipment to existing courses or programs. It will be necessary to transform the learning environment itself. Re-engineering teacher preparation will involve comprehensive changes in: pedagogy, curriculum and faculty development, incentives and rewards, professional assessment and credentialing, budgeting and support for a new information technology infrastructure, and the formation of new organizational partnerships that transcend the boundaries of traditional classrooms and schools.

Implementation Grants

Implementation grants should support a comprehensive effort to infuse technology into the teaching and learning experiences of prospective teachers. Strong and extensive faculty development using high quality learning resources are essential features of an Implementation Grant application. Such efforts should include cross-disciplinary collaborations and strong partnerships with K-12 schools. These partnerships should place postsecondary faculty and K-12 teachers in learning activities that improve the learning technology proficiency of future educators.

Catalyst Grants

Catalyst grants provide three years of support to statewide, regional or national consortia with established track records and promising strategies for systemic reforms of programs that prepare tomorrow's teachers to use technology. These partnerships must be prepared to marshal their resources to stimulate and support significant reforms and innovative large-scale improvements in the

FUNDING

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology

Please visit www.ed.gov/teachtech/ for full information on the Year 2000 competition.

Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships

(Federal Register: December 30, 1999 [CFDA#s 84.339A & 84.339B]) Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to enhance the delivery, quality, & accountability of postsecondary education & career-oriented lifelong learning through technology & related innovations. Eligible Applicants: Partnerships consisting of two or more independent agencies, organizations, or institutions, including institutions of higher education, community organizations, & other public & private institutions, agencies, & organizations. Note: A nonprofit organization must serve as the fiscal agent for a funded partnership. Applications Available: December 30, 1999. Deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications: March 3, 2000. Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 9, 2000. Note: All applicants must submit a preapplication to be eligible to submit a final application. Available Funds: $4,300,000. Note: Federal funds available under this competition may not pay for more than 50 percent of the cost of a project. The non-Federal share of project costs may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services, supplies, or equipment. Estimated Range of Awards: $100,000 to $500,000 per year. Estimated Size of Awards: $333,333 per year. Estimated Number of Awards: 12-13. Additional Information: Priorities, selection criteria, contacts, & other information are available in the Federal Register notice. Additional information is available online at: http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg/grantann/q499/123099b.txt

21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

(Federal Register: December 20, 1999 CFEDA No. 84.287]) Purpose of Program: The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program was established by Congress to award grants to rural and inner-city public schools, or consortia of such schools, to enable them to plan, implement, or expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social services, cultural and recreational needs of the community School-based community learning centers can provide a safe, drug-free, supervised and cost-effective after-school, weekend or summer haven for ch8ildren, youth and their families. For fiscal year (FY) 2000 we encourage applicants to design projects that focus on the invitational priority in the PRIORITIES section of this application notice. Eligible Applicants: Only rural or inner-city public elementary or secondary schools, consortia of those schools, or LEAs applying on their behalf, are eligible to receive a grant under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Program. An LEA (local education agency) considering serving more than one school is encouraged to submit a consortium application on their behalf. Applicants must demonstrate that they meet the statutory program purpose as being either a "rural" or "inner-city" school or a consortium of such schools. Applications Available: December 20, 1999. Deadline For Transmittal of Applications: March 20, 2000. Available Funds: Approximately $185,000,000. Estimated Range of Awards: $35,000 - $2,000,000, depending on the number of Centers included in each grant application. Estimated Average Size of Awards; $375,000, for a grant that will support 3 Centers. The average funding for a single Center is $125,000. Estimated Number of Awards: 350 - 500, but the actual number will depend on how many awards will assist multiple Centers. Project Period: Up to 36 months. Please note that all applicants for multi-year awards are required to provide detailed budget information for the total grant period requested. The Department will negotiate at the time of the initial award the funding levels for each year of the grant award. Additional information-including the Absolute Priority and Competitive Priorities can be found at: http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg/grantann/q499/122099b.txt

Technology Opportunities Program

The Technology Opportunities Program (TOP), formerly known as the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program, is a highly-competitive, merit-based grant program that brings the benefits of an advanced national information infrastructure to communities throughout the United States. $12.5M are available for distribution in Year 2000. TOP grants play an important role in realizing the vision of an information society by demonstrating practical applications of new telecommunications and information technologies to serve the public interest. Regional workshops will be conducted.

http://www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/tiiap/index.html

LINKS OF THE MONTH

This will be a monthly addition to the notices in this Listserve.

Curriculum and other education resources on the Web

The Scout Report is a weekly publication by the Computer Science Department at the University of Wisconsin offering a selection of new and newly discovered Internet resources of interest to researchers and educators. Subscriptions can be done at the Web site. http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/report/sr/current/index.html Search and browse the reports by Library of Congress classifications at http://www.signpost.org/signpost/ Tutorial on searching and using the Web at http://sosig.ac.uk/desire/internet-detective.html

NCES Publications:

All and new (last 90 days records) of NCES publications, many related to technology at http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/

State Standards Links

The National Education Goals Panel is an independent executive branch agency of the federal government charged with monitoring national and state progress toward the National Education Goals. A very useful resource for state standards is at http://www.negp.gov/

PBS VideoLink to the Digital Divide

"Digital Divide," a two-part PBS series, premieres this month. The series explores the digital divide and related issues in education, employment, race, and gender. Through interviews with innovators who are bridging the digital divide in the classroom and communities, the series examines some of the best practices for using technology effectively. (The presentation is available through www.digitaldivide.gov) Mr. Bolt was also a founder of the National Coalition of Independent Public Television Producers.

Digital Divide premieres nationwide on PBS January 28, 2000 10:30-11:30 pm (set your VCRs). A Digital Divide Network Web site (http://www.DigitalDivideNetwork.org).

A thought to ponder about:

" Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"

—T. S. Eliot, Choruses from "The Rock," I Collected Poems 1909-1919

Signing off,

--Germán

Germán Bermúdez, Ph.D.
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Technology Office - Division of School Improvement
Connecticut State Department of Education
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Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: (860) 566-1971; Fax: (860) 566-7845
http://www.state.ct.us/sde/tech/tech.htm

Sent to CECA-L by Peter Kemp

The future is now?

Barnes & Noble to offer 'print-on-demand' books

IBM technology will offer more titles to retail and online customers without adding physical inventory.

http://www.pcweek.com/a/pcwt9912103/1018321/

Edited for length and forwarded by Christopher Shepard.

"New Web Site Aims to Help Teachers Find Learning Resources," U.S.Department of Education, December 9, 1999

The Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) at http://www.thegateway.org is designed for teachers, parents and students to type a topic, grade level and other information into a search screen that then retrieves --from more than 140 federal, state, university, nonprofit and commercial web sites -- lessons, instructional units and other free educational materials on that topic, for that grade level.

GEM differs from the Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) website at http://www.ed.gov/free/ in that it also includes materials not created with federal support and utilizes a more precise search engine.

> **CECA Award information and application available at www.ceca-ct.org or send email to CECACT@aol.com putting AWARD in the subject line. Applications due March 13.**

FY 2000 GRANTS

preparation and certification of well-prepared, technology-proficient teachers for 21st century schools.

Obtaining Application Guidelines:

You may obtain a copy of the guidelines by mail by contacting the Education Publications Center:

ED Pubs,
PO Box 1398,
Jessup, MD 20794-1398;
1-877-4ED Pubs (1-877-433-7827);
TDD: 1-877-576-7734;
Fax: 301-470-1244;
web site: http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html;
email: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

For further information about this program, call the program office at 202.502.7788 or send an email to Teacher_Technology@ed.gov.

CECA Newsletter
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