# CECA Award Winning Project Update

*Jennifer Cecarelli and Julie Greeman*

Winter is here, and that means our CECA project, "A Year in the Life of an Elementary School: A Multimedia Publication Presented in Four Seasons" has entered its third season.  We can't believe how rapidly the time has passed since we began our project, and the students are equally amazed!  The seasonal structure of the project has provided the students with a context to measure the passage of time that they can understand, and they are excited and proud of their technological growth through project participation thus far.

We introduced the project at a meeting that included the entire kindergarten and second grade classes. Students were introduced to each other and multiage partnerships were formed.  The new partners sat next to each other during a very productive brainstorming session and planning discussion that included decision making about what aspects of elementary school life would be included in our book.  We found the students to be attentive to and supportive of one another, and they voiced a unanimous enthusiasm for mixed age cooperation with a technological design. The meeting ended with a preview of keyboarding practice as the new partners worked together to type each others' names utilizing Microsoft Word.

Intake interviews were also completed during the first few meetings.  A random sampling of the two classes participated in the videotaped interviews, which were designed to assess the current level of technological skills present in the group and to determine areas of interest for practice and exploration. We found that students in both grades had primarily utilized computers for gaming purposes, with little exposure in other areas.  Many were familiar with the fact that typing the text portion of stories makes them neater and easier to read.  Others were aware of the Internet as a resource for information.  None had used a digital camera; however after a brief demonstration, all expressed a great deal of interest and

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## Second Annual Educator Recognition Award

CECA is proud to announce the 2nd annual Educator Recognition Award. 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.

# Important Date

## 7TH LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPOSITION

The Connecticut Educators' Computer Association (CECA) is sponsoring the Sixth Annual Legislative Technology Exposition on May 2, 2001. 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.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FALLS SHORT

The Department of Education is sending every school district a toolkit that walks administrators through the process of designing, implementing, evaluating and improving professional development. Based on lessons learned from the Department's Model Professional Development Program award winners, the toolkit responds to a recent Department-sponsored evaluation that found that most districts do not know how to implement high-quality professional development activities and lack the resources to start and sustain effective, long-term programs. The full report is at **http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/PES/ school_improvement.html#subepdp1** and the toolkit is at **http://www.ncrel.org/pd/toolkit.ht**

Source: TechLearning News
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
and Technology & Learning.
January 3, 2001 - No.5

## 2nd Annual Recognition Award

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 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. Last year's winners have been featured in recent newsletter articles: Ginny Merchant from Weston High School, Sally Dastoli from Silas Deane Middle School in Wethersfield, and Jennifer Cecarelli and Julie Greeman from Wesley Elementary School in Middletown.

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 2001 award must be postmarked by March 12, 2001. The award will be made by May of this year and presented at the CECA Annual Membership Meeting in June, 2001.

## Digital Library

Access all databases now through the Digital Library trial site: HTTP://trials.gale.com/trials/cdl

The trial site will be replaced by the permanent site when the Digital Library Gateway is completed.

Support materials are available on the Gale web sites listed below. Product fact sheets: www.gale.com (select "Visit Our Catalog Now" then select "United States" then select "Product Fact Sheets). User Guides: www.galegroup.com/cust_serv/webprod/itwebguide.htm Customer training tools: www.galegroup.com/cust_serv/training_tools.htm

Don't forget to register your library for access to the Digital Library. You'll find the registration for at HTTP://www.cslib.org/cln/diglibreg.htm and check HTTP://www.cslib.org/cln/diglibinfo.htm for the latest Digital Library news.

*Jane Emerson Connecticut Library Network*

## FILTERING

Education week article (1/10/01 pg 32) re filtering - highlights According to the article: "The provision requires that schools and libraries adopt and use Internet safety policies that address the operation of a "technology protection measure" that blocks or filters Internet access to "visual depictions" that are "obscene", child pornography, or "are harmful to minors.""

1) Applicable to Schools AND libraries
2) Required in order to obtain "e"rate funding
3) April 16 deadline - FCC must issue regulations that will take effect April 16 for this to become efective
4) Schools and libraries: Must draw up Internet safety policies that include installing technology to block MINORS from accessing or viewing porn
5) Minors - defined as those age 17 or younger
6) Likely to be challenged in court by free-speech advocates
7) Possible waivers for one, two years for special cases
8) Language is murky - will need clarifica-tion by regulation according to lawyers studying the law

*Synopsis thanks to Tom Buckley*

## Commission for Educational Technology Report January 2001

*M. Denise Moynihan*

The Commission for Educational Technology has sent its first report to the General Assembly outlining the progress it has made in its first four months of existence. The Commission is charged with envisioning, coordinating and overseeing the creation of the statewide digital network and digital library, professional development opportunities demonstrating technology integration and educational technology integration standards for students, teachers and administrators.

Significant progress has been made in several areas:

1. Collaboration between the Department of Information Technology (DOIT), the State Department of Education (SDE) and Higher Education (SDHE), State Library Commission (SLC) and Commission for Educational Technology (CET) established;

2. The Connecticut Digital Library - operational by the end of March 2000;

3. Minimum Standards for connection onto the Digital Network established;

4. Twelve pilot districts evaluated for readiness to connect to the Digital Network;

5. The Education Content Committee formed four subcommittees on curriculum and content, special population needs, administrative uses and professional development plans;

6. Continuous funding needs outlined and sent to the Legislature;

7. Recommendations for a statewide E-Rate application completed;

8. Connecticut Parent Academy established.

The full text of the report can be found at the CET website (http://CTEdTech.org).

Many CECA members are making major contributions to the success of this Commission. Commission members have said that volunteers stated that they read about the activities in the CECA newsletter. That is great news for us!

Thanks for your support of CECA and the efforts of the Commission for Educational Technology.

### IP2 ACADEMY
### IMPLEMENTING INFORMATION POWER 2
### SPONSORED BY CEMA,
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*See center fold for more information...*

Cosponsored by CECA and CABE

## CONGRESSIONAL WEB-BASED EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT RELEASED

The Congressional Web-Based Education Commission recently completed its work with the release of "The Power of the Internet for Learning: Moving from Promise to Practice." The report details the Commission's thorough study of the critical pedagogical and policy issues affecting the development and use of web-based content and learning strategies to improve achievement at the K-12 and postsecondary levels and issues the following national call to action:

* We call on federal and state governments to make the extension of broadband access for all learners a central goal of telecommunications policy.

* We call upon policymakers at all levels to work with educational institutions and the private sector to support the continuous growth of educators through the use of technology.

* We call upon the federal government to create a comprehensive research, development, and innovation framework for learning technology.

* We call upon the public and private sectors to join forces in developing high quality content and applications for online learning.

* We call upon Congress, the US Dept of Ed, and state and regional education authorities to remove barriers that block full access to online learning resources, courses, and programs while ensuring accountability of taxpayer dollars.

* We call upon parents, the education community, and the private sector to develop and adopt privacy and protection safeguards to assure that learners of all ages are not exploited while participating in online learning activities.

* Finally, we call upon the federal government, states, localities, and the private sector to expand funding initiatives and to develop new models to bring these policies to reality. The Commission's report is available at http://www.webcommission.org (requires Acrobat Reader and is rather long).

*[Source: Regional Alliance Telcom Network]*

## UPDATED NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLAN RELEASED

Earlier this month the US Dept of Ed issued its updated national educational technology plan, "e-Learning: Putting a World-Class Education at the Fingertips of All Children." The National Educational Technology Goals:

**Goal 1:** All students and teachers will have access to information technology in their classrooms, schools, communities and homes.
**Goal 2:** All teachers will use technology effectively to help students achieve high academic standards.
**Goal 3:** All students will have technology and information literacy skills.
**Goal 4:** Research and evaluation will improve the next generation of technology applications for teaching and learning.
**Goal 5:** Digital content and networked applications will transform teaching and learning.

The full report fills in the details, and a state appendix summarizes federal investment in CT's educational technology. Requires Acrobat Reader. An executive summary and links to the full report are available at http://www.ed.gov/Technology/elearning/index.html.

*[Source: Benton Foundation listserv]*

## CT STATE BOARD PROPOSES TECH CEUS FOR H.S. TEACHERS

At its Nov meeting, the CT State Board of Ed adopted a legislative agenda for 2001. It included a proposal to require high school teachers to earn at least 15 hours of continuing education in the use of computers in the classroom every 5 years (elementary and middle school teachers already are required to do this).

*[Source: Board minutes]*

**SchoolTech Expo**

**The Marriott Marquis Hotel**

**New York City**

**March 28 through 31**

# LOB Tech Expo
# Thursday
# May 2, 2001

## Award Wining Project

excitement about learning to use it. These interviews enabled us to design a structure for our meetings that remains consistent from week to week, with the only change being the particular technological or language skill that we are working on.

Recent meetings have focused on word processing skills. Students are now able to access Microsoft Word from the desktop, and students (even those in kindergarten) have become adept at utilizing the "shift", "enter", "backspace", and "space bar" keys. Partners worked on typing their own names, typing each other's names, and finally typing sentences about their new friends. Upcoming meetings will focus on manipulating font size and text color, as well as importing photos taken with the digital camera.

We are very excited about the way the project has taken off and the way the students are responding. They are cooperating well within their multi-age partnerships, and their self-confidence and comfort-level with technology grows each time we meet. They are becoming authors, artists, technology specialists, and most importantly …friends! Our best wishes to all CECA members for a happy, healthy, prosperous, and peaceful New Year!

*Jennifer Cecarelli and Julie Greeman, CECA Educator Recognition Award Winners, are teachers at Wesley School an elementary school in Middletown.*

## CECA 2001

## October 29, 2001

## Radisson, Cromwell

## CECA Members Receive 20% Off Your Schooltech Expo Registration

CECA recognizes the importance of professional development and technology team building in Connecticut schools. In order to bring you the important resources and tools to achieve those goals we are pleased to announce an exciting partnership with SchoolTech Expo, which will be held at The Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City on March 28 through 31. SchoolTech Expo New York is a State of Connecticut Department of Education approved CEU provider. Provider # 185

At this year's SchoolTech Expo you'll hear talks by the industry innovators and implementers. You can participate in keynote addresses, intensive sessions, hands-on labs, workshops and special events. You'll come away with new tools, resources, ideas and connections that can transform the learning that takes place in your schools.

This year SchoolTech Expo will debut the Leadership Institute. This one-day event will focus on how technology leaders can implement a vision and build effective technology leadership teams that are able to respond quickly and effectively to new opportunities and challenges.

As a member of CECA you will receive a 20% discount on your conference registration fee. To take advantage of this discount please make sure that you check the box corresponding to CECA in the demographics section of the registration form. If you have not received your SchoolTech Expo brochure in the mail yet, it is available at the SchoolTech web site in PDF format. You may also register for the conference at the SchoolTech Expo web site by going to www.schooltechexpo.com.

If you have any questions about your registration or how to apply this discount please call Shelly Nielsen at 415-905-2413 or e-mail snielsen@cmp.com.

*Denise Moynihan President CECA*

## Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology, Inc. Announces New Website

The Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of its new web site— redesigned, more information, and easier to navigate — at http://www.ctacad.org.

Please note, the address of the Calendar recommended in the recent CECA newsletter has changed to http://www.ctacad.org/About/calendar.htm.

Mariandrea Mueller
Administrator of Technology & Communications
Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science, & Technology, Inc.

## Adobe Extends Website

Adobe has launched an extension to their Web site that focuses on education and provides a forum for educators to exchange ideas. www.adobe.com/education

The site provides free tutorials for their products as well as free teaching materials for use in K-12 education. The tutorials cover topics that range from learning the basic tools of their programs to step-by-step multimedia demonstrations on how to accomplish specific program tasks. The site includes the Faculty Club section and the Curriculum Exchange section where lesson plans can be downloaded in PDF format. The lesson plans do not cover typical academic areas such as English or math but they will help you and your students master the Adobe software so the program can be incorporated into your academic area.

## Kids' Virtual Connecticut

### Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology

### Students of all ages, studying all subjects

*See center fold for more information..*

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