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Enter to win a Gateway laptop computer and peripherals worth more than \$4,000 just for logging on to www.EdTechInfoCenter.com and submitting a review of a product that you've purchased or used in a K-12 or Higher Education environment. T.H.E. Journal will be launching this new, FREE Web site -- the Educational Technology Information Center (ETIC) -- in the coming months. ETIC will provide a forum for educators to share their real-world experiences of using hardware and software products so others can make better-informed decisions. [Click here](#) for details on how you can enter to win this laptop computer system.

HEADLINE NEWS

▶ High-tech Christmas gifts could make way to school

Some education officials urge parents to talk with kids about the risks of flaunting the gadgets.

— From *The Detroit News*

The holiday season's most popular kid gifts -- gadgets like MP3 players -- are about to make the trip from underneath the Christmas tree to the classroom...

For the full story, visit:

<http://www.detnews.com/2005/schools/0501/02/B01-47391.htm>

Note: If you receive an error, please copy the *complete* URL and paste it into your browser window.

▶ Camas students are taught about online predators

— From *The Seattle Times*

Police and school officials in the Camas School District are using a computer program to teach students about Internet predators and the online dangers of kidnapping, sex abuse and child pornography...

For the full story, visit:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/education/2002132539_internet28m.html

Note: If you receive an error, please copy the *complete* URL and paste it into your browser window.

- ▶ Lincoln students get yearbook upgrades
– From *The Des Moines Register*

Lincoln High School students will enjoy not only a full-color hardbound annual this year, but for the first time they can purchase their yearbook on CD-ROM. The yearbook also will be posted on a Web site this year, another new feature...

For the full story, visit:

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20041228/NEWS02/412280339/1004>

Note: If you receive an error, please copy the *complete* URL and paste it into your browser window.

- ▶ Framingham State puts paperless classes to test
– From *The Boston Globe*

Arriving at his Tuesday morning English class at Framingham State College, Joe LaFauci consulted his syllabus for the day's assignment. But instead of digging through his backpack for a crumpled course outline, he logged onto the class Web page on his wireless laptop...

For the full story, visit:

http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2004/12/28/framingham_state_puts_paperless_classes_to_test/

Note: If you receive an error, please copy the *complete* URL and paste it into your browser window.



NEWS BRIEFS

- *T.H.E. Journal* and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) have announced the second annual Sylvia Charp Award for District Innovation in Technology. The award program is in honor of the late Dr. Sylvia Charp and her groundbreaking contributions and extended service to the education technology community. *T.H.E. Journal* and ISTE will identify and recognize one school district that exhibits effectiveness and innovation in the application of technology districtwide. The award will be presented at NECC 2005 in Philadelphia at the end of June. For full details of the award and an online application, log on to <http://www.thejournal.com/ISTECharpAward/> before March 4, 2005.
- At their one-year anniversary, the North American Council for Online Learning (<http://www.nacol.org>), a nonprofit organization representing the interests of administrators, practitioners and students involved in online learning in the United States, Canada and Mexico, announced a \$200,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to create resources and tools for the online learning community. The primary goal of this two-year grant is to develop a clearinghouse of administrative resources that can be used to guide parents, students, educators and public policy-makers interested in online learning. The grant comes just a NACOL has assumed hosting responsibilities for the Virtual School Symposium, the only annual conference solely dedicated to exploring issues and trends in online learning. The 2005 Virtual School Symposium has been scheduled for October 2005 and will be held in Denver. The program will include sessions about best practices and resources for online learning. In addition, NACOL is currently the host of a series of regional professional development symposiums that are designed to offer the most relevant and useful technology training possible to educators and administrators. The next scheduled NACOL Regional Professional Development Symposium will be held April 15-16 in Baltimore, and will be locally hosted by John's Hopkins University. To learn more about upcoming NACOL events, visit <http://www.nacol.org/events/>



TRANSITIONS

- **CampusEAI Consortium** has announced the appointment of Prashant Chopra, a leading educational technologist, as its chief architect. In his new position, Chopra will oversee the building of CampusEAI Consortium's infrastructure and will be involved in its overall product development. Chopra served as a key resource to Case Western Reserve University's Information Technology Services group in its development of the university's portal environment, and continues to provide strategic assistance in the IP Television initiative at Case Western. For more information, visit <http://www.campuseai.org>
- The **National School Boards Association** Executive Director Anne L. Bryant has appointed Barbara M. Hunter as the organization's new director of communications. Hunter will be responsible for creating and implementing NSBA's strategic communications program, which will include media relations, Web site development, external partnerships, and new initiatives such as the Center for Public Education. Most recently, Hunter was the executive director of information and outreach for the Alexandria City Public Schools in Alexandria, Va., where she led the communications efforts for the 11,000-student school district. She has also served as editor of *The School Administrator*, a national education magazine published by the American Association of School Administrators. For more information, visit <http://www.nsba.org>



NEW PRODUCTS



The California-based **Foundation for Teaching Economics (FTE)** has released a five-lesson curriculum unit titled "Is Capitalism Good for the Poor?" The curriculum materials and access to the supporting Web site are being provided at no cost to secondary school teachers and economic education organizations. The unit focuses on the institutions of capitalism and the ability of those institutions to promote – or inhibit – wealth producing economic growth. FTE is distributing "Is Capitalism Good for the Poor?" on CD- ROM and DVD discs that contain a demonstration video of actual high school classes and all the materials necessary for a teacher to conduct engaging, interactive lessons. The FTE lessons also can be used in a variety of social science disciplines. They are particularly attractive to teachers because they target economic concepts included in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test of high school economics, which will debut in 2006. The lesson plans include games and simulations based on real-world case studies such as how cell phones help impoverished African and Indian farmers. In addition to distributing the lesson unit to educators, FTE is conducting teacher-training seminars nationwide for high school teachers over a three year period. To obtain a copy of "Is Capitalism Good for the Poor?" visit <http://www.fte.org/teachers/programs/capitalism/>. For more information on the program you can also contact Jim Klauder at klauder@fte.org



Questionmark has announced the integration of Questionmark Perception testing and assessment software with vocal collaboration tools from Horizon Wimba, a leading provider of vocal solutions for education and online business. The integration enables learners to speak into a microphone and have the computer record their answers to questions. Horizon Wimba's popular Voice Authoring and Voice Board technologies seamlessly integrate with Questionmark Perception using the **(Questionmark Perception) Horizon Wimba Connector**. The Connector works with Horizon Wimba's Eduvoice and WebLab systems as well as its new Spoken Response Manager for Questionmark Perception package. Through this integration, educators and trainers can author and deliver online questions for people to answer by speaking into a microphone. Horizon Wimba questions also can be mixed within the same assessment as other automatically graded Perception questions. Spoken responses are then stored on the voice server, where they are available for grading from Perception. In addition, a new Questionmark Scoring Tool enables instructors to establish rubrics for the manual grading of spoken responses. More information about the Connector is available at <http://www.questionmark.com/go/horizonwimba>



GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTESTS

- **2005 CoSN Leadership Awards**
<http://www.cosn.org/about/awards/>
Deadline: Jan. 10, 2005
- **Rock & Roll Library Song Lesson Contest**
<http://www.rocklibrary.com/Library/Entity.aspx?id=78fe312d-8fa5-49b3-91a5-0194670613ef>
Deadline: Jan. 13, 2005
- **2005 Practical Money Skills for Life Educator Challenge**
<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/english/resources/contest/index.php>
Deadline: Jan. 14, 2005
- **2005 Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning**
<http://www.inspiration.com/scholarship>
Deadline: Jan. 27, 2005
- **Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence**
<http://www.amgen.com/community/teacherAward/index.html>
Deadline: Jan. 31, 2005
- **2005 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVison Awards**
<http://www.exploravision.org>
Deadline: Feb. 1, 2005
- **Califone Coloring, Drawing and Essay Contests**
<http://www.califone.com>
Deadline: April 30, 2005
- **HOBO Energy Challenge**
http://www.iscienceproject.com/energy_challenge/energy_challenge.html
Deadline: May 1, 2005
- **Genieve Systems XCLASS Promotional**
<http://www.genieve.com/contest/Default.htm>
Deadline: May 30, 2005
- **unitedstreaming VOD Pass Program**
(FREE one-year subscription to *unitedstreaming*)
<http://vod.unitedstreaming.com>
Deadline: June 30, 2005



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DEALS & TRANSACTIONS

- **CDW Government Inc.** (CDW-G - <http://www.cdwg.com>), the government and education subsidiary of CDW Corp., and **HP** (<http://www.hp.com>) have announced a contract win with the **Garland Independent School District** (GISD - <http://www.garlandisd.net>) in Texas. The contract, which is valued at an estimated \$1.3 million in printers, will help the district improve administrative efficiency and further its academic success. CDW-G is providing GISD more than 600 HP laser and inkjet printers and 40 scanners. The new HP printers will be used districtwide for various purposes, including printing report cards for some 15,000 GISD high school students. The printers also will be used in an accelerated reader program in K- 5 classrooms to print reports that help teachers, students and parents monitor progress and track student weaknesses in learning.
- **PLATO Learning Inc.** (<http://www.plato.com>) recently announced a \$2.15 million agreement with the **Salt Lake City School District** (<http://www.slc.k12.ut.us>) to provide its full suite of PLATO Learning solutions, including assessment tools, accountability management solutions, instructional content, professional development, and correlation services to augment the instruction and learning programs currently in place at the district.

- The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT - <http://www.njit.edu>), an e-learning pioneer and the confirmed originator of the "virtual classroom" concept, is using the WebCT Campus Edition (<http://www.webct.com/ce4>) course management system to expand its already broad range of innovative e-learning offerings. NJIT has also just launched a customized e-learning program for pharmaceutical workers and is deepening counter-terrorism education for the New Jersey State Police by utilizing the WebCT Campus Edition.



WEB NOTES



<http://www.bonnieplants.com>

This kid-friendly site from Bonnie Plant Farm offers tips on gardening and plant care for more than 50 types of vegetables, herbs and flowers. More importantly, the company is encouraging third-grade students and teachers from Alaska, California, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to register for its 2005 Third-Grade Cabbage Scholarship Program before the Jan. 21, 2005 deadline. The program gives participating third-graders a chance at winning a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Fonikz!

<http://www.fonikz.com>

Fonikz is a Web-based organization where teachers and parents can come to learn and teach phonics for free, as well as purchase low-cost workbooks. Fonikz is sponsored by and is a subsidiary of CramSchool, which is a learning center for teaching reading. The Fonikz program uses a new approach to teaching reading with phonics by requiring students to learn the 44 sounds of the English language. They then can use the sounds to sound-out words that they already know. After a few lessons, they can learn to sound-out and read unfamiliar words. The online course includes phonics, spelling, and vocabulary for word recognition. Fonikz.com also acts as a resource center for parents and teachers who are looking for material for teaching reading skills. Teachers may download phonics worksheets or teach online. For students who learn slower, teachers and parents can buy and download specially prepared workbooks for classroom and home use.



THE JOURNAL NEWS

► 2005 Educational Road Map to the Web!

Order your copy of the new 2005 Educational Road Map to the Web! This year's Road Map is loaded with more than 200 educationally appropriate Web links from netTrekker (<http://www.nettrekker.com>), the search engine for schools, who also co-sponsored this one-of-a-kind classroom poster. Copies of the Road Map can be ordered online at <http://www.thejournal.com/roadmap/>

► Four New Integrating Technology Courses From T.H.E. Institute

T.H.E. Institute is offering four new online professional development courses to help educators comply with NCLB requirements and use technology more successfully in the classroom. The cost is \$209 per course, which includes a \$10 per person per course administration fee for documentation of clock hours and a certificate of completion. Course moderation and graduate credit are additional options; volume discounts are available. Anyone who enrolls in a course will receive individual access to the netTrekker site, as well as free individual access to United Learning's *unitedstreaming* site. For extra value, with registration for one of the above courses, participants will have access to an additional five courses — all five for only \$100 — plus a \$10 per person per course administration fee. In addition, special pricing is available for educators in district that have purchased Glencoe/McGraw-Hill's TechCONNECT!

Integrating Technology in the Classroom Courses:

- Social Studies — Available Now!
- Science — Available Now!
- English/Language Arts— Available Now!
- Mathematics — Available Now!

For more information, log on to <http://www.thejournal.com/institute/IntegratingTech.cfm>

▶ **Awesome Clipart for Educators** offers educators FREE clipart, coloring pages, backgrounds, banners, fonts, icons, worksheets, wallpaper, and more. Choose from categories such as animals, creatures, education, holidays, just to name a few. We have thousands of graphics organized in a simple, easy to use format - categorized by type and keyword. Next time you need clipart - come to Awesome Clipart for Educators and see how easy finding clipart can be!

<http://www.AwesomeClipartForEducators.com>

▶ **T.H.E. Offers Educators Individual netTrekker Subscriptions**

T.H.E. Journal has announced an exclusive partnership with Thinkronize, developers of netTrekker, the trusted search engine for schools, which allows educators worldwide to purchase individual (single-user) subscriptions to netTrekker, which previously was available only on a site license basis to schools and districts. With this initiative, T.H.E. and Thinkronize have combined to better serve their customer's needs by personalizing the way educators use the Internet. Educators can purchase individual subscriptions for netTrekker through the *T.H.E. Journal's* Web site at <http://www.thejournal.com/netTrekker>. The suggested list price for a one-year subscription is \$49.95.

▶ **Call for Papers**

T.H.E. Journal welcomes submissions of articles from educators involved in integrating technology on their campuses and into their curricula. Articles from 2,000-4,000 words may describe effective administrative or instructional projects with a local, regional, statewide, national or international scope. Features should address the issue's cover theme and follow our Editorial Guidelines.

To view the 2005 Editorial Calendar, and for more information on submitting a feature, visit:

<http://www.thejournal.com/business/media/ecal.cfm>

Upcoming themes include:

- Cell Phones, VoIP & Telephony Technologies in Education
- The Wireless Classroom
- Testing and Accountability

Abstracts and manuscripts should be sent to editorial@thejournal.com



CONFERENCE CORNER

- **South Carolina EdTech 2004-05**
Jan. 7-9, 2005
Myrtle Beach, SC
<http://www.scaet.org/edtech/default.cfm>
- **Macworld Conference & Expo**
Jan. 10-14, 2005
San Francisco, CA
<http://www.macworldexpo.com/live/20/events/20SF005A>
- **EDUCAUSE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference 2005**
Jan. 12-14, 2005
Baltimore, MD
<http://www.educause.edu/conference/marc/>
- **3rd Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities**
Jan. 13-16, 2005
Honolulu, HI
<http://www.hichumanities.org>
- **2005 Florida Educational Technology Conference**
Jan. 26-28, 2005
Orlando, FL
<http://www.fetc.org/fetc2005/>
- **Midwest Education Technology Conference**
Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2005
St. Louis, MO
<http://www.csd.org/metc2005>
- **25th Annual Texas Computer Education**

Association (TCEA) Convention & Expo

Feb. 7-11, 2005

Austin, TX

<http://www.tcea.org/convention/2005>

- 2005 Ohio SchoolNet State Technology Conference

Feb. 14-16, 2005

Columbus, Ohio

<http://www4.osn.state.oh.us/stateconf2005>

For a complete listing of up-to-date conference information, visit T.H.E. Conference Calendar, *T.H.E. Journal* 's comprehensive conference database, at: <http://www.theconferencecalendar.com>



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