

1998 Challenge Grant Awards

Alaska

Chugach School District

Project Name: Alaska Reform in the Classroom through Technology Integration and Collaboration (ARCTIC)

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Funding: 1st Year: \$1,861,237; 5 Years: \$8,442,793

ARCTIC is an intensive training and support program for all school districts in Alaska. The Alaska Reform in the Classroom through Technology Integration and Collaboration Project will facilitate the application of technology as a tool for change in the classroom and improve the way teachers teach and students learn. The infusion of technology performance standards into all Alaska curricular content areas will help support statewide reform efforts. Participating teachers will spend a semester in Ohio and work with mentors, resource personnel, and technical experts. The project provides release time for mentors to provide support for other colleagues in the district. The project fosters the development and implementation of a self-sustaining statewide technology consortium that will cultivate school improvement and change beyond the 5-year grant period.

Arizona

Phoenix Union High School District

Project Name: Global Connections

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Web site: <http://www.globalc.org>

Funding: 1st Year: \$ 1,028,240; 5 Years: \$ 6,960,655

The Phoenix Union High School District and 18 consortium members will meet the needs of educators through intensive and sustained staff development programs at 3 progressive levels; ongoing technical and pedagogic support systems; university teacher preparation centers located on elementary and high school campuses; and the establishment of worldwide, electronically connected communities of learners.

Creighton Elementary School District No. 14

Project Name: Project Venture

Contact: Cathy Poplin

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Web site: <http://www.creighton.k12.az.us/projectventure/>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,011,324; 5 Years: \$4,721,176

The Project Venture Consortium has developed a training model to integrate technology into K-12 classroom curriculum that is aligned with Arizona's State Content Standards. Through skills-based training, peer collaboration, and mentoring activities, success will be ensured. Over 3,000 teachers will be impacted to the point where they can independently facilitate this type of curriculum.

Illinois

Franklin-Williamson Regional Office of Education #21

Project Name: "Blazing Learning Trails" A Professional Development Model to Improve School Learning

Contact: Marla Harp

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Web site: <http://www.blazinglearningtrails.org>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,387,370; 5 Years: \$6,708,999

The Blazing Learning Trails three-tiered, three-strand professional development model takes education professionals from initial introduction or "entry" into the use of technology through "adoption, adaptation, appropriation, and innovation" for three main areas: Essential Technology Skills, Engaged Learning, and the Illinois Learning Standards. This research-based model will train educators (current K-12 faculty, staff, and administrators; college of education faculty; and future preservice teachers) in utilizing technology. The Learning Trails project will transform classroom from teacher-centered to student-centered environments, and ensure that all education professionals have the skills to create a technology-enriched learning environment to improve student performance.

Madison County Regional Office of Education

Project Name: LITES (Leaders In Technology Enhanced Schools) Kit Project

Contact: Don Snyder

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Web site: <http://www.lites.lth5.k12.il.us>

Funding: 1st Year: \$2,000,000; 5 Years: \$10,000,000

The LITES Kit Project packages everything necessary to integrate technology throughout the curriculum in a portable format and provides ubiquitous access to the world community with training, support, and resources. This compact technological curriculum is easily replicated to impact and sustain educational growth. The Engaged Learning Kit will show teachers how to use technology in ways that enhance, facilitate, and improve teaching and learning in order for students to achieve high academic standards. This project supports the acquisition of knowledge and skills for responsible citizens and productive work in the 21st century.

Kansas

Arkansas City Public Schools, USD 470

Project Name: PRAIRY: Professional Replenishment (Renewal, Reciprocity Rethinking) Approach (which Activates) Innovative Resources for Youth

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Web site: <http://www.prairy.org>

Funding: 1st Year: \$ 993,400; 5 Years: \$ 5,311,144

A diverse consortium of 22 partners including the Kansas State Department of Education, a Native American university, a wildlife nature center, and a School-To-Career local partnership, will help educators integrate advanced technology into innovative uses and sound teaching strategies. The project will ultimately benefit about 14,000 students from rural south central Kansas through improved instruction—connecting school, community, and home through advanced technology with particular emphasis on local history, culture, and career awareness.

Louisiana

Concordia Parish School Board

Project Name: AMERICA 2000: Making Inroads to the Backroads

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Web site: <http://america2000challenge.org/>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,345,266; 5 Years: \$7,313,349

This proposal builds upon existing connectivity among Concordia and Catahoula Parish (County) School Boards, the number-one ranked Macon Ridge Enterprise Community, and the Louisiana Department of Education, and establishes new partnerships. The goal is to expand an existing Trainer of Trainers professional development model to other poor, rural school systems in order to enhance student learning opportunities in real world applications of challenging new Louisiana content and performance standards in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The project will scale up existing electronic capabilities to establish technology-rich classrooms and interdisciplinary learning centers for grades 6-12 in 25 project schools.

Maryland

Montgomery County Public Schools

Project Name: Maryland Teaching and Learning with Technology

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Web site: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/mtlt/main.html>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,774,635; 5 Years: \$9,056,132

The Maryland Teaching and Learning with Technology consortium brings together three school districts that serve large numbers of disadvantaged students to increase the effective use of technology in schools through enhanced professional development. The consortium will achieve its goals and objectives through the integration of six components: the state-wide technology academy, a network of professional development schools, graduate school programs in technology integration, district-based professional development activities, distance learning events and videos, and online communications for training and mentoring.

Massachusetts

Springfield Public Schools

Project Name: Project MEET: Massachusetts Empowering Educators with Technology Teaching, Support, and Policy

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Funding: 1st Year: \$1,999,878; 5 Years: \$9,999,878

Project MEET, a statewide collaborative technology professional development effort, will help Massachusetts educators become proficient in integrating technology into the curriculum and help improve student learning. Through a three-tiered systemic process of teaching, support, and policy setting, with focus on the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, and components of universal design, the project will meet the needs of about 40,000 students.

Montana

Polson Public Schools

Project Name: Montana TALEs: Technology and Learning in Every School

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Web site: <http://webback.educ.umt.edu/tales/>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,812,318; 5 Years: \$9,100,752

Montana TALEs: Technology and Learning in Every School will implement an exemplary model of professional development in which teachers become thoughtful, innovative learners infusing multimedia technology into the school curriculum. Participating with teachers, parents, and community members, students will acquire language, mathematics, science, technology, social studies, and literacy skills, while designing interdisciplinary multimedia learning experiences built around the traditions, customs, beliefs, and legends of Montana.

New Mexico

Gadsen Independent School District

Project Name: Regional Educational Technology Assistance Initiative

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Web site: <http://reta.nmsu.edu>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,138,083; 5 Years: \$8,723,841

The Regional Educational Technology Assistance Initiative Project will establish Regional Resource Centers to support continuing professional development, curriculum dissemination, and ongoing sustainability. The project will focus on the professional development needs of educators and administrators who supervise the education of New Mexico's students. It is anticipated that about 2,400 teachers and 48,000 students will benefit from this project.

Central Consolidated School District

Project Name: The Education Technology Improvement Plan Project

Contact: Don Fischer

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Web site: <http://nettrain.unm.edu>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,827,481; 5 Years: \$7,600,537

A consortium of school districts, state departments of education, and universities will initiate a program of technology-based professional development in 4 centers across the four-corner region. Using a "train the trainers" model, team of staff and parents will receive training in the four centers and return to their respective schools to train all other teachers. Training will be for implementing standards-based instructional technology in the classroom, and will be augmented by a free-access Web site that will allow wide dissemination of the resulting professional development modules to other teachers across the southwest.

Pennsylvania

New York Community School District 2

Project Name: Net Learn: Networked Learning Communities for Educational Reform

Contact: Dr. Alan Lesgold

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Web site: <http://www.lrdc.pitt.edu/netlearn>

Funding: 1st Year: \$ 1,988,797; 5 Years: \$ 9,933,801

A consortium of urban school districts nationwide, university professional developers and educational technology leaders, and the Microsoft Corporation. The group of partners have joined together to develop networked groupware for the collaborative work of educators engaged in an educational reform effort designed to bring all students to high standards of learning. The implementation plan applies innovative technology to professional development, while also providing training in the use of technology for education. Educators learn both how to teach effectively and how to leverage the potential of technology for learning, by experiencing how technology can facilitate their own learning as well as their students learning.

North Carolina

North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM)

Project Name: Education Future Now

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Funding: 1st Year: \$911,809; 5 Years: \$6,486,589

The Education Future Now (NOW) Project is the professional development phase of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Education Future Center. NOW takes existing partnerships and outreach in distance education and combines them with statewide professional development services to seven remote, low-wealth regions, recently equipped by NCSSM with advanced technology facilities. The NOW project will serve up to 4,000 educators in 51 countries.

North Dakota

Bismark Public School District #1

Project Name: Teaching with Technology Initiative

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Web site: <http://www.ndtw.org>

Funding: 1st Year: \$789,390; 5 Years: \$7,282,557

The Teaching with Technology Initiative will provide instruction and assistance that will enable North Dakota teachers, students, and other staff to effectively integrate technology as a teaching and learning tool in K-12 curriculum. The content and outcome standards will be based on the NCATE technology standards for teacher education. Certification will be offered at three levels of proficiency. A variety of state and regional entities will coordinate an initiative to serve the professional development needs of the state educators. Improved instructional methodology will increase opportunities for students to learn in ways they learn best.

New Jersey

Polaris Joint Vocational School District

Project Name: Alliance+ Technology Innovation Challenge Grant

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Web site: <http://www.k12science.org/alliance>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,800,055; 5 Years: \$9,283,687

Alliance+ unites the experiences of 35 state, local, and higher education partners, and builds on a proven training model in New Jersey and successful adaptation in three cities. Through use of powerful Internet applications, Alliance+ addresses: students learning in core content areas, teacher content knowledge, and ongoing staff development. The approach includes: supporting materials in a variety of formats, train-the-trainer strategies, continuous follow-up support, and ongoing K-12/community college partnerships. The project will impact more than 9,000 teachers and 225,000 students in Cleveland, OH, Miami, FL, and Phoenix, AZ.

South Dakota

Black Hills Special Services/TIE

Project Name: Learning Organizations for Technology Integration (LOFTI)

Contact: Jim Parry

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Web site: <http://www.tie.net>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,997,731; 5 Years: \$9,988,655

An array of partners and organizations will join together to form Learning Organizations for Technology Integration (LOFTI). These key collaborators will work together to achieve the LOFTI goal, which states that South Dakota educators will engage in "learning organizations" that build knowledge, skills, and abilities essential for teaching and learning in our changing, technological world. Capacity for innovative technology integration for teaching and learning will be enhanced through Professional Learning Organizations (PLO) involving technology-using educators from across the state. Collegial Learning Organizations (CLO) involving team of educators around the state will engage in project-based, telecollaborative curriculum development for K–12, preservice, and inservice. Systemic Learning Organizations (SLO) involving entire districts will build district-wide capacity to support innovative technology integration. The network of LOFTI professional development will impact 9,000 educators and 90 percent of the school districts in the state.

Texas

Region 19 ESC

Project Name: The El Paso "Trainer of Trainers Model in Curriculum & Technology Integration"

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Web site: <http://www.challenge.utep.edu>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,946,609; 5 Years: \$9,869,164

The El Paso Project will provide job-embedded teacher transformation activities to integrate educational technology across the curriculum to 500 teachers; graduate 160 classroom teachers with master's degree in technology integration; provide 100 school administrators with leadership and advocacy training; train 200 parent educators to develop Parent Centers in the 100 participating schools; refit 25 preservice teacher

preparation courses; and develop materials that will assist other communities and school districts to replicate the trainer of trainers model.

Vermont

Montpelier Public Schools

Project Name: Virtual Professional Development School Consortium

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Web site: <http://www.nici-mc2.org>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,996,649; 5 Years: \$9,917,023

The Virtual Professional Development School Consortium will assist 30 professional development school partnerships to develop a technology infusion model to improve teacher preservice and inservice in technology to strengthen K-12 student learning. Teacher educators, K-12 teachers, and preservice students will develop skills together in using data, technology planning, professional development planning, and technology use to deliver teacher development and K-12 instruction.

West Virginia

Marion County Board of Education

Project Name: West Virginia TurnKey Solution

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Web site: <http://www.thesolutionsite.com>

Funding: 1st Year: \$1,153,893; 5 Years: \$7,020,466

The West Virginia TurnKey Solution Project focuses on statewide high-quality professional development and fosters the integration of technology, curriculum, teaching strategies, learning activities, and student evaluation. The Phase 10 Professional Development Model will provide a 2-day training session for administrators and a 5 day integration workshop for 560 teams of 3 teachers. Both will include hands-on training, equipment distribution, and the use of a teacher created Web site, The Solution Site, for technology integration projects and lesson plans.