

2000 Challenge Grant Awards

Colorado

Mountain Valley School District

Project Name: REMOTE Rural Mountain Organization for Technological Enhancement

Contact: James Barron, Superintendent

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Funding: 1st year: \$830,261; 5 years: \$3,549,449

The REMOTE Project focuses on onsite and ongoing technology staff development to provide skills and knowledge in technology integration within five curricular areas. The educators who will participate in this grant are located in six districts in rural and remote southwestern Colorado where the barriers to staff development are distance, transportation, and access. This grant proposal solves these problems by providing the districts with onsite and ongoing training over the 5-year grant period.

Florida

Bay District Schools

Project Name: Beacon Learning Centers

Contact: Barbara Eubanks

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

Funding: 1st year: \$2 million; 5 years: \$10 million

The BEACON Learning Center and Teacher Resource Consortium will focus on four key issues: providing ongoing staff development in effective strategies for technology integration and related curriculum and instructional techniques, providing opportunities for collaborative learning for staff, evaluating the use of technology-enhanced instruction, and developing a central databank for housing curriculum resources aligned with curriculum standards.

Indiana

Crawfordsville Community Schools

Project Name: Tech-Know-Build: Indiana Students Building Knowledge with Technology

Contact: Kathleen Keck

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Crawfordsville, IN 47933

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E-mail: kkeck@cville.k12.in.us

Web site: <http://research.soe.purdue.edu/challenge/info.htm>

The Crawfordsville project proposes to develop and implement a learner-centered and problem-based curriculum, beginning in the sixth grade. The curriculum, developed by teachers, will focus on collaborative construction of knowledge, in authentic contexts and will align with local, state, and national standards. The project will also create a network of electronic mentors (preservice teachers, parents, and community members) who will collaborate with students and teachers to design, implement, and evaluate students' problem-solving activities. Collaboration and leadership from two leading universities, one large urban school, one small rural school, the Indiana Department of Education, and business partners will provide models for curriculum reform and professional development that can be disseminated and replicated.

New York

Schenectady City School District

Project Name: Virtual Informal Education Web (VIEW)

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Albany, NY 12222

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

Funding: 1st year: \$2 million; 5 years: \$10 million

Project VIEW spans a consortium of more than 500 public school districts and nonpublic schools across New York state linking them with a rich tapestry of partners, including informal education content providers (museums, libraries, cultural and community organizations), corporate, and higher education partners. Project VIEW includes nationally recognized partners, such as the Smithsonian Institution, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Ellis Island, and National Baseball Hall of Fame.

VIEW partners share a common goal: To deliver world-class education to students by using interactive educational technology to access content-rich resources and activities. Building staff development structures created by five extant New York State Technology

Literacy Challenge Program collaboration hubs, the project partnerships will facilitate an exchange of ideas and collaborative program development among teachers and informal education providers.

The educational programs and products resulting from this will provide interactive curriculum resources that will enhance student achievement in mathematics, science, technology, language arts, Social Studies, and the Arts. Project VIEW will produce:

- A replicable model for informal educational providers and K-12 teachers to collaboratively engage in development, testing, and delivery of content, rich, interactive videoconference resources and programs;
- A customizable template of staff training components which build capacity to replicate that collaborative model, and/or participate in the programs produced by the VIEW project; and
- A coordinated Internet Web site structured as a Web hub to showcase, promote, and provide educators easy access to VIEW projects and related archives and resources.

Products developed under VIEW will directly impact and improve the capacity of public and nonpublic schools. Evaluation activities will document quantifiable changes in teaching and learning. By the end of 5 years, this collaborative will:

- Provide intensive professional development to a minimum of 1,780 teachers;
- Transform educational practices throughout the collaboration via mentoring and turnkey professional development to over 17,000 teachers; and
- Expand learning capabilities for nearly 400,000 students across New York state by offering opportunities to work on self-directed, technology-integrated, standards based curricular projects linked with the resources of museums and cultural institutions.