

# Archived Information

## Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC)

Goal: Public Engagement

**Organizational Accomplishments:** EDC has a long history of developing educational programs and campaigns for use outside of schools, employing an innovative array of media, technologies, and community partnerships. We operate on the principle that in order to reach diverse individuals and diverse communities, you need to be in venues and media they are likely to encounter—such as public television, libraries, museums, community technology centers, and other youth-serving organizations.

**Purpose:** In all of these programs, we communicate a vision of effective mathematics education while also providing model activities that exemplify that vision. We seek to increase public understanding of: the value of mathematical literacy; the relevance of mathematics to daily life and careers; the kinds of activities that build both specific skills and deep understanding of core mathematical ideas; and the goals and characteristics of effective mathematics education

**Activities and Results:** Through our work in out-of-school settings we seek to infuse rigorous mathematics content into engaging programs for young people and families. *The America Connects Consortium (ACC)*—a collaborative initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education and based at EDC—provides technical assistance, training, regional development, and other services to the nation's community technology centers (CTCs). *DigNubia—The Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology of Discovery:* This project, funded by the National Science Foundation, provides informal learning opportunities in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology, using archaeology and the ancient African civilization of Nubia as the context.

EDC has developed a successful educational series for adult learners who are looking to build basic skills, develop their careers, and support their children's education. *Adult Literacy Media Alliance (ALMA)* helps adults gain basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills. TV411, ALMA's magazine-format television series (with ancillary print materials and an instructional Web site) airs on more than 100 public television stations nationwide and has won two New York Emmy awards.

Much of our public outreach is conducted through our ongoing collaborations with leading national education organizations, including the National Science Teachers Association, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the National School Boards Association, and the Council of Chief State School Officers. In some projects, we have played a key role in launching major public awareness campaigns around specific education topics, such as: *Learning Indeed*, a \$13 million collaborative initiative of W.K. Kellogg Foundation, based at EDC, featured a large-scale awareness effort, chaired by Senator John Glenn, to encourage teaching that links community service experiences to classroom instruction in all disciplines.

EDC's family of Web sites (including more than 75 project Web sites) is a powerful dissemination tool for our research findings and model mathematics activities. Examples include: *Problems With a Point*, a searchable, browsable Web site of mathematics problems and problem sequences for students in grades 6 through 12 and *Making Mathematics*, a set of Web-based materials designed to give secondary students a mathematics research experience

The *K-12 Mathematics Curriculum Center* (based at EDC) provides advice, materials, and professional development to districts around the country that are interested in implementing 12 mathematics curricula programs funded by NSF. Special components of K-12 MCC materials and seminars focus on strategies for building successful partnerships with parents around curriculum implementation.

**Plans for the next 12 months:** In addition to the ongoing activities cited above, we plan to launch public engagement partnerships with the National Action Council For Minorities In Engineering and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.