Education Web Sites Rank Among the Best

Sacramento, Calif. – Judges from the 2003 Best of the Web contest have named five K-12 and higher education Web sites among the best in the nation for their innovation, Web-based delivery of services, efficiency, and functionality for improved student, faculty and citizen access.

The Wisconsin School Finance Data Warehouse (www2.dpi.state.wi.us), Arizona Grants Management Enterprise (www.ade.az.gov/GME), Butte County, Calif.'s, CTAP Online (www.ctaponline.org), Harvard Business School MBA Job Bank (http://jobbank.hbs.edu), and ASU Online (asuonline.asu.edu) all received Honorable Mention awards from Best of the Web judges, composed of representatives from Center for Digital Education, *Converge Online*, Center for Digital Government, NYWired for Education Inc., State Technologies Inc., and last year's Best of the Web winners.

"We are very pleased to present Best of the Web Honorable Mention awards to these five very impressive education Web sites," said Marina Leight, director of the Center for Digital Education. "These awards acknowledge the innovation and strategic thinking that went into building the sites. Each offers so many unique resources and services for students and faculty. I applaud the leaders behind the scenes for their hard work and for applying technology to enhance campus services and improve administrative functions."

The Wisconsin School Financial Services Team developed the School Finance Data Warehouse Web site with the goal of making the state's school finance data easily accessible and understandable. The site contains school district profiles, financial and custom reports, data downloads, and other related links.

"To be recognized nationally for our efforts is satisfying as it is another validation of the achievement of our data access goal," said David Carlson, director of the School Finance Data Warehouse.

Building and maintaining the Arizona Grants Management Enterprise Web site are no small feats for the Grants Management team. The site contains everything you need to know about educational grants funded from state or federal programs. From current and past projects and funding availability, to application downloads and cash management reports, the site contains complete profiles of grant allocations.

"This is a tremendous honor for the Grants Management Office of the Arizona Department of Education," said Tom Horne, Arizona superintendent of public instruction. "The Grants Management team has proven that they're using their abilities to the utmost to ensure that the constituencies that use this Web site get the best possible service. They're to be congratulated."

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Teachers in the Butte County, Calif., school district have a wealth of resources at their fingertips with CTAP Online. A professional development center for educators, the site is rich in resources with a lesson-plan builder, standards databases and discussion forums, along with training, online courses and mentor and site administrator workshops.

Utilized by more than 1,800 students and maintained by a staff of 25, the Harvard Business School MBA Job Bank manages information on over 1,400 companies, 1,300 job postings and 6,000 interviews each year. School officials say the Web-based application allows students to manage each aspect of their job searches online, receive personalized, up-to-the-minute notifications of new job and interview opportunities, upload resumes, and more.

"This unique and powerful application has consolidated, automated and greatly enhanced the complex job search and interviewing processes for our MBA students," said Judy Stahl, chief information officer at Harvard Business School. "It allows staff at our Career Services office to devote more time to personal counseling and advisory activities."

Bette DeGraw, dean of ASU College of Extended Education, said ASU Online was created to provide students, faculty and staff with critical information and support for over 250 Web-delivered courses.

"The rapid growth of our Web-delivered courses, the millions of hits on ASU Online, and now the recognition by the Center for Digital Education is a direct result of the hard work, dedication and innovation of our distance learning and technology team," DeGraw said.

For more information on the Best of the Web or Center for Digital Education, contact Rhonda Wilson at 916/932-1321 or visit www.centerdigitaled.com.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION
The Center for Digital Education is a national research and advisory institute on education technology. Established in 1999, the Center provides education and industry leaders with decision support, research and services to help them effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century. The Center offers a series of unique programs covering the critical policy, executive leadership and applications surrounding education technology. Along with Best of the Web, its programs include Digital Education Navigator, *Converge Online*, Special Events, Digital Community Colleges Survey, and Digital States Survey/Education.

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