



NORTH DAKOTA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

ND ETC

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QWEST GRANTS are AWARDED to TEACHERS for CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

Qwest Foundation awarded grants to ten North Dakota teachers to implement new technology resources in their classrooms. Fifty one applications were received and the finalists were chosen through a rating/ranking process using a rubric developed for this grant program.

The teachers awarded funding were:

- Michelle Rebenitsch – Bottineau Junior High School
- Eliza Brown – Centennial Elementary School, Bismarck
- Myla Buckeye – Edgeley Elementary School
- Elizabeth Anderson-Molde – Central Middle School-Grafton
- Peggy Rolle – Hebron Elementary School
- Bill Pribula – Milnor Elementary School
- Chad Erik Askim – New 8 Elementary School
- Melody Alme – Prairie Rose Elementary School, Bismarck
- Misti Vogle/Dan Glasser – Richardton-Taylor High School
- Vicki Olson – Sawyer High School

For more information [Qwest Grant Summaries](#).

QUARTERLY ETC MEETING SCHEDULED for FEBRUARY 24, 2009

The next ETC Meeting will be held via video conference on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 9:00 am to 12: 00 pm (CT).

The sites include:

- Bismarck, ITD CIO's office in the Capitol;
- Cavalier, Pembina County Extension ITV Room;
- Fargo, ND CDE Director's Office;
- Grand Forks, Administration Building Conference Room;
- Minot, Adult Education ITV Room;
- Oakes, SE CTC, ITV Room.

Individual wishing to attend the meeting may attend at any of the sites listed above or can request to add a video site to the meeting by contacting Deborah Janzen, 701-231-6009 or [email](#). The agenda will be available at: www.ndetc.k12.nd.us/Meetings.html

CENTER for DISTANCE EDUCATION

ND CDE OFFERS 2 NEW COURSES & A VARIETY of UPDATED COURSES

ND CDE recently added two new courses to its long list of course offerings. A variety of updated courses were released in January, as well.

New courses include: Chemistry, Second Semester and Spanish, Seventh Semester.

Updated courses include:

- Relationships,
- Creative Writing,
- Freshman Language and Composition,
- Personal Finance.

Contact ND Center for Distance Education to enroll in one or more courses or for more information: [ND Center for Distance Education](#) or (701) 231-6000.

Chemistry, Second Semester

In this second semester, students will study

- energy and chemical changes,
- chemical reaction rates,
- chemical equilibrium,
- acids and bases,
- oxidation-reduction reactions,
- electrochemistry,
- hydrocarbons,
- the chemistry of life,
- nuclear chemistry.

Students will also conduct basic chemistry experiments that compliment and support the content.

In the print course, students will use the components of a lab kit to perform basic chemistry experiments that compliment and support the content.

However, if students choose to take the online course, they will be given access to Late Nite Labs's REACTOR Chemistry software which will allow them to receive a full chemistry lab learning experience. REACTOR's Lab interface completely mimics real wet lab conditions, procedures, and assignments.

Spanish, Seventh Semester

In Spanish, Seventh Semester, students will enter the world of Hispanic Literature and read a number of different stories and poems written by writers from Spain and Spanish-speaking America. Students will also spend time reading about the authors' lives to discover the events and people who influenced their writings. Some of the authors who will be covered include:

- Juan Rulfo,
- Gabriel García Márquez,
- Carlos Fuentes,
- Isabel Allende,
- Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer,
- José Martí,
- Rubén Darío,
- Alfonsina Storni,
- Julia de Burgos,
- Pabolo Neruda.

In each lesson students will review important vocabulary from the stories and specific grammar rules that will assist them with their interpretation and understanding of the literature.

Prerequisite: Spanish, First-Sixth Semesters. (Currently a Print Course only.)

Creative Writing

This recently updated course will train students to use techniques to make their writing more vivid, descriptive, and organized! Students will study and learn to develop the elements of a story including: setting, character, plot, and theme.

Works of art and short literature selections provide a stimulus for writing. Armed with writing tools acquired throughout the course, students will produce a short story as their final creative project. (Print and online course)

Relationships

In this world of Internet communication, it is still important to have the skills to develop strong personal relationships with others. In this course, students will study human development as it relates to oneself and relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. In addition, students will study communication skills and conflict management as they relate to friendships, dating, marriage, family, and the work environment. (Print and online course)

Freshman Language and Composition

If students are in need of a 9th Grade English course, check out the newly updated Freshman Language and Composition class! This is a great course that centers on the fundamentals of grammar, usage, and writing. Each assignment focuses on core components like spelling, vocabulary, letter writing, and library use—all skills that relate to everyday life. This course will definitely help improve students' grammar and writing skills and will give them the knowledge base required to move on to 10th grade English. (Print and online course)

Personal Finance

After taking ND CDE's Personal Finance course, students will be more financially responsible. First, students will learn about money:

- how to budget,
- how to keep a checkbook and a filing system,
- how to deal with debt and credit, and
- how to become a wiser consumer.

Students will also learn how money and the dynamics surrounding it affect relationships, lifestyle, their present and future, and their retirement. Students who are interested in improving their approach to money matters should check out this practical elective course. (Print and online course)

TRY OUT ND CDE's ONLINE COURSE DEMO

ND CDE has adapted to a new online course delivery platform to better serve its students. The platform is called MOODLE, and it provides more flexibility and easier maneuverability for each student to view online course discussions, access supplementary resources (like Discovery Streaming videos and other interactive simulations), and complete lesson work.

It allows students to work on different parts of the assessments at a time, to save their work if necessary, and to easily retrieve and submit their work when they are finished with the entire lesson.

Another great thing about MOODLE is that it allows students to save all of their work without them having to worry about file type or compatibility issues.

Most of the assessments are divided into several parts. The first part is often computer-graded, and the student will be able to view the results immediately after submission. Additional assignments will go to the instructor to grade and comment on. MOODLE allows the instructor to grade the work directly in the database as well as to add any additional comments.

Everything is stored in MOODLE so both the student and instructor can view and review all the assessments whenever they wish.

At this time, 35 of ND CDE's online courses use Moodle, and by the beginning of the next school year, we estimate that over 50 courses will employ these dynamic features. To view a course demo, go to: [Course Demo](#).

EduTech

BLOGGING/PODCASTING SERVICE & TRAINING AVAILABLE

EduTech recently announced a new service available to schools called Blogs@EduTech. Blogs@Edutech allows teachers (and even students) to maintain their own personal and classroom blogs. There are no hosting costs and each blog is granted 10 MB of space. Additional space can be leased to districts to allocate as they see fit at a minimal yearly cost.

Supplementing this service is a sequence of four professional development classes. Blogging and Podcasting Possibilities, Introduction to Blogging, Podcast Creation and Advanced Blogging and Podcasting. These classes will take you from learning what blogs and podcasts are to developing media and hosting your own podcast.

Contact your regional representative to find out more about this service and/or to schedule classes.

TEACHERS SPICE UP YOUR SPRING CURRICULUM WITH VIDEO

[State Historical Society of North Dakota Dates Wednesday's at 10:00 AM \(CT\) Jan 7 – Apr 29](#)

- Early People in ND - Grade 2
- The Capitol of ND is Bismarck – Grade 3
- Fur Trade – Grade 4
- Homesteading in ND – Grade 4
- Native American Dwellings – Grade 4
- Learning US History Inside and Out – Grade 4
- Inventions, Innovations & Adaptations – Grade 6

NDSU - North Dakota Forest Service Wednesday's at 10:00 am (CT) Feb 5 – Apr 29

- ▶ People, Prairie & Trees – Grade 4 & 8
- ▶ Environmental Exchange Box – Grade K-8
- ▶ Looking at Leaves - Grade K-4

Knife River Indian Village Historic Site NHS

- ▶ Hidatsa Gardening on April 21, 2009 (10AM CDT)
- ▶ The Venerable Bison on April 28, 2009 (10AM CDT)

For more information or registration instructions visit [Video Events](#).

PARTICIPATE in 123 JAZZ VIDEOCONFERENCE 2009!

123 VC! Jazzing Up your Curriculum with Videoconference is a professional development opportunity available to teachers to promote new world collaborative learning for students. This week long event will be held by videoconference in one North Dakota videoconference location TBD. Participants will learn about structures/templates for projects with other classes and other educational uses of videoconferencing. This class is team taught with videoconference colleagues from locations around the US.

Save the dates July 27-31, 2009 now to team up with another teacher to create a videoconference project for next year. Along the way, learn about and use other collaborative technologies such as blogs & wikis.

Watch for additional details to be available in the next few months!

K-12 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL READ AROUND THE PLANET (RAP)

Fifteen North Dakota classrooms will participate in this year's Read Around the Planet (RAP) literacy event February 23 - March 6.

RAP is a celebration of NEA's Read Across America. Classrooms use interactive video to connect with other classrooms "around the planet" and read to each other. Facilitated by EduTech, sponsored by TWICE and Polycom, in cooperation by NEA, TWICE provides the registration tool, matches classrooms with partners, and provides support documents. Participating classrooms are responsible for their own video connection and developing their own reading activities for the event.

Participating classrooms from North Dakota are

- ▶ Beulah,
- ▶ Bismarck,
- ▶ Devils Lake,
- ▶ Glen Ullin,
- ▶ Maddock,
- ▶ Medora,
- ▶ North Sargent,
- ▶ Williston
- ▶ Wolford.

CLASSROOMS ENCOURAGED to PARTICIPATE in MEGACONFERENCE Jr. 2009

North Dakota students and educators are invited to join hundreds of sites from countries all around the world including Portugal, Australia, Canada, Japan, Malta, Great Britain, Slovenia, the US and more in the upcoming Megaconference Jr. 2009 February 19, 2009!

Megaconference Jr., now in its sixth year, is a project designed to give students in elementary and secondary schools around the world the opportunity to communicate, collaborate and contribute to each other's learning in real time, using advanced multi-point video conferencing technology.

Similar to Megaconference, Megaconference Jr. focuses primarily on the K12 audience and uses the same format of the global multipoint videoconference. Presenters provide videoconference-based interactive presentations and activities focused on both cultural and academic topics. The event will run a full twelve hours beginning at 7:00 am - 7:00 pm EST on February 19, 2009 to accommodate time zones around the world. North Dakota K-12 sites can participate in as much or as little of the Megaconference Jr. as they choose via live stream (for viewing instructions visit [MegaconferenceJr](#)).

North Dakota interactive schools include Bismarck, Milnor, Jamestown and EduTech at the Valley City Regional Technology Center.

For more information on MegaconferenceJr. contact Kim Owen at kim.owen@ndsu.edu or 701.231.9522.

BROWN v BOARD of EDUCATION INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING EVENT

Two North Dakota high school classrooms, Fessenden-Bowdon and Hettinger, will participate as live interactive sites in the Brown v Board of Education Interactive Distance Learning Event scheduled to take place by videoconference on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 9:00-11:00 AM (CT). As interactive sites participating classrooms from both schools will each have an opportunity to interact in the live videoconference and engage in the Q&A with the panel members. Other interested North Dakota schools may watch the archived stream. Details on stream access will be forthcoming and posted to the teco listserv.

The Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Site and the Kan-ed network at the Kansas Board of Regents, in partnership with the Great Plains Network and Internet2, will create a forum for virtual panelists who represent original plaintiffs and appellants or family members in the five cases consolidated in the historic Brown decision. This network enabled collaboration will enhance public dialogue and understanding of the historical significance of the Supreme Court's decision in the Brown v. Board of Education case. This session will connect participating communities through videoconferencing to hear first-hand accounts from the panelists and to explore the meaning of the landmark decision today. The presentation will also highlight local historical resources, share primary source accounts, and demonstrate how videoconferencing can be incorporated in teaching and learning to support inquiry, scholarship, and awareness.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education (1954) is one of the most pivotal opinions ever rendered by that body. This landmark decision highlights the U.S. Supreme Court's role in affecting changes in national and social policy. Often when people think of the case, they think of a court case brought about so that an African American student required to attend a segregated school could be accepted in attendance at an all-white school in her neighborhood. In reality, the story of Brown v. Board is far more complex.

CALL for VIRTUAL BATTLE of the BANDS 2009

VIRTUAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS IS BACK!!! In 2008, quality recordings through videoconferencing systems were a bit challenging and as a result some bands dropped out of the competition however a new approach was implemented for Megaconference Jr. 2009 Virtual Battle of the Bands. Individuals are asked to submit work via an online video (YouTube, Vimeo, Google Video, video on your own server, etc) of the band or artist performing. Solo acts are also encouraged to submit their work!

The Rules:

- ▶ The piece performed **MUST** be an original work--no copyrighted material allowed.
- ▶ The recording must be single camera, single take without any editing other than cropping the ends of the file.
- ▶ Voting will take place during Megaconference Junior 2009.
- ▶ Appropriate permissions must be obtained by the person posting the video to use images of the students.
- ▶ No profanity or inappropriate references in the lyrics will be accepted
- ▶ Submissions must be made by February 12, 2009 by 12 noon, EST.

To submit, send the following info via email to troyer.59@osu.edu:

- ▶ Name of the band/artist:
- ▶ Name of the piece being performed:
- ▶ Composer(s) of the piece:
- ▶ Location of the band/artist: (City, State/Province, Country)
- ▶ First name and ages of all the performers and their role:
- ▶ Link to the video:

Questions may be submitted to Virtual Battle of the Bands Coordinator, Megan Troyer, troyer.59@osu.edu

Virtual Battle of the Bands Deadline: February 12, 2009

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE APPROACHING 2009

Thanks to all the schools that submitted applications for the 2009 Legislative Education Technology Showcase. The Showcase is planned for March 3 in the Great Hall of the Capitol and will highlight current best practices of education technology in our K12 classrooms across the state. Facilitators for this event, EduTech and the ND ETC, encouraged schools to submit an application. Applicants selected were those that demonstrated education technology projects in which students interact and engage with technology in an exciting and unique way. Activities involving math and science were encouraged.

Please share this message with your local legislators so they can plan to stop for a visit to the schools' displays sometime during that day. We appreciate the commitment and effort from all of the school teams on their willingness to make the trip to the capitol a possibility during the showcase. It is critical we continue to share the message of positive impact technology has in supporting learning for our students.

Details on participating schools and vendors are available at [North Dakota Legislature Showcase 2009](#).

Teams selected to participate and their presentations include:

- ▶ Ashley School-Kindergarten Imagineers
- ▶ Fairmount School-Laptops for Each Student Utilizing Dyknow Software
- ▶ Turtle Mountain Community High School-What Does it Mean to be Green?
- ▶ Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock School-GPS/GIS and How They are Used in our World
- ▶ Myhre Elementary, Bismarck-Web 2.0 in the Classroom
- ▶ McClusky School-Ezedia Presentation Software
- ▶ Bismarck Middle School -Web 2.0 in the Classroom
- ▶ Powers Lake High School/NDSU-Scanning Electronic Microscope
- ▶ Burlington-Des Lacs Elementary-The “Theory” of Blogging
- ▶ Sheyenne Valley Area CTC Valley City-PC Construction

SIXTEEN K-12 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN READ ACROSS NORTH DAKOTA (RAND)

Sixteen North Dakota elementary through senior high classrooms participated in the fourth annual Read Across North Dakota (RAND) January 28-29, 2009 using videoconferencing technology and the state’s broadband network.

RAND, a project modeled after the national event Read Around the Planet, was designed to give students in elementary and secondary schools around the state the opportunity to read to each other, collaborate and contribute to each other’s learning in real time, using advanced multi-point video conferencing technology.

Participating schools included:

- ▶ Alexander,
- ▶ Ashley,
- ▶ Beulah,
- ▶ Bismarck,
- ▶ Glen Ullin,
- ▶ Lakota,
- ▶ North Sargent,
- ▶ Maddock,
- ▶ Maple Valley-Buffalo,
- ▶ Maple Valley-Oriska
- ▶ Medora,
- ▶ Wolford
- ▶ the ND Center for Distance Education.

Classrooms were paired up according to grade level and teachers communicated with their partner classroom in preparation for the event. Each class shared a presentation with their partner school. Presentations included readings, poems, skits and plays. Teachers commented the kids get so excited about using the ITV and talking to other kids and students thoroughly enjoyed their experience and will sign up again next year.

For more information on any of these events contact your Regional Information Technology Specialist ([Regional Information Technology Specialist](#)) or Kari Sauer at kari.sauer@sendit.nodak.edu or 1.800.804.8550 and for more information on MegaconferenceJr. contact Kim Owen at kim.owen@ndsu.edu or 701.231.9522.

POWERSCHOOL TRAINING

EduTech will conduct the following PowerSchool workshops on these dates and locations. Each workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT.

Power Scheduler

- ◆ Scheduler - Prepare to Load Returnees
 - February 5 in Dickinson
 - February 25 in Surrey
 - April 23 in Valley City

- ◆ Scheduler - Prepare to Load – New or Major Changes
 - February 4 in Bismarck
 - March 3 in Valley City
 - April 21 in Grand Forks

- ◆ Scheduler - Prepare to Build Returnees (1-day) February 24 in Valley City

- ◆ Scheduler - Prepare to Build – New or Major Changes (2 –day)
 - February 17 & 18 in Grand Forks
 - March 24 & 25 in Bismarck

- ◆ End of Term – March 4 in Grand Forks

- ◆ PowerSchool Summer School Set Up – April 2 in Valley City

To register for any of workshops below, go to [PowerSchool training](#). Click on the name of the workshop and then click on the “Register for this workshop” link.

If you have any questions or problems registering, please contact the EduTech helpdesk at 800.774.1091 or sendit.helpdesk@sendit.nodak.edu.

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