



LEARN

LEADING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
THROUGH THE REGIONAL NETWORK

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Professional Development Opportunities
LEARN website information

Video Conferencing and Web Conferencing Terminology

LEARN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The below training sessions are available to all Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 schools. Non-LEARN districts may participate in professional development opportunities for a fee. Districts may attend the workshops at any of the three IUs. Check with your IU for specific details.

Project ViSA Training:

Math/Science Teacher Training

Monday, April 14th – IU 6

Wednesday, April 16th – IU 5

Thursday, April 17th – IU 28

Time – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Moodle:

Coach/Teacher Training

Monday, April 21st – IU 28

Tuesday, April 22nd – IU 6

Wednesday, April 23rd – IU 5

Time (*Two Sessions*) – 8:30 am to noon

12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Web 2.0 Tools:

Coach/Teacher Training

Monday, May 5th – IU 28

Tuesday, May 6th – IU 5 (advanced session)

Wednesday, May 7th – IU 5

Thursday, May 8th – IU 6

Time – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Summer/Fall Professional Development Plans:

A one-day summer training session with a follow-up day in the fall is being scheduled at each IU.

The focus of the training will be on current and emerging technologies for the middle school science and social studies classrooms.

Content applications such as wikis, blogs, video/webconferencing, and podcasting will be highlighted. Classroom teachers will engage in hands-on activities and be asked to implement several of the applications into their content area.

During the follow-up session in the fall, teachers will share their experiences with integrating the various technologies into their particular classrooms.

More information will follow regarding dates, agenda and district team requirements.

- Check out www.learningpa.org! You'll find a Calendar of Events that includes information on upcoming professional development opportunities at each of the IUs.
- Looking for video conferencing activities? Click on the [LEARN Links](#) tab for Videoconferencing Resources including searchable databases of available videoconference experiences.
- Don't forget to check out the [Featured Link](#) on the LEARN homepage. Currently ePals is the featured link. It is a free service that connects classrooms worldwide. Submit a profile that includes a project overview to have access to the 13,000+ learning partners.

VIDEO CONFERENCING AND WEB CONFERENCING TERMINOLOGY

Video conferencing and web conferencing options continue to expand as we delve further into using our Wide Area Network (WAN). Many factors need to be considered when choosing a video or web conferencing solution. No one solution is appropriate for all situations. If you have questions, please contact your IU technology department.

Video Conferencing - A real time video session between two or more users or between two or more locations.

While videoconferencing may comprise any number of end points communicating, the term "video chat" typically means between two end points only. Video Conferencing is good for use with groups wanting to collaborate in "true" interactive meetings thus simulating a face-to-face experience. It can be cascaded with other videoconferencing bridges therefore increasing the number of participants possible. Some of the major players in the field are Polycom (www.polycom.com), TANDBERG (www.tandbergusa.com), RADVISION (www.radvision.com) and VTEL (www.vtel.com).

Over IP—The synchronized transfer of audio and video data between two physically separate locations.

Videoconferencing over Internal Protocol Local Area Networks (IP LANs) and private lines has become very popular because the quality can be controlled. Using the public Internet as the transport also provides reasonable quality. During periods of congestion, systems can throttle down from 30 fps to a lower number of frames per second to eliminate jerkiness.

Bridge or Multipoint Control Unit (MCU) - A device that is used to moderate a videoconference of three or more end points (users at computers or groups of users in one room).

In "voice switch" mode, it determines who is the predominant speaker and automatically switches the video of that person to all the screens. In "continuous presence" mode, it splits the screens and sends the video from each site to every screen. In "chair mode," someone can manually control who is on screen at any given time. A MCU also provides an audio bridge that mixes the audio from all the end points. A MCU may include a built-in H.323 gatekeeper for translating user names into IP addresses, a video PBX for call switching, forwarding and transfer as well as video network management for quality of service (QoS), bandwidth management and accounting.

Web Conferencing - A videoconferencing session via the Internet.

In order to interact with other participants, attendees use either a Web application or an application downloaded onto their client machines. Web conferencing offers advantages over traditional room-based videoconferencing because applications such as collaborative Web browsing, file transfer and application sharing are easily supported over the Internet. Web Conferencing is good for use with groups wanting to collaborate with "true" interactive meetings simulating a face-to-face experience and for use with large audiences at multiple sites. Web conferencing tools such as Elluminate Live and SCOPIA Desktop are a couple of the products available today.

Webinar (WEB-based semINAR) - A workshop or lecture delivered over the Web.

Webinars may be a one-way Webcast, or there may be interaction between the audience and the presenters. In a webinar, each participant sits at a computer and is connected to other participants via the internet. This can be either a downloaded application on each of the attendees computers or a web-based application where the attendees will simply enter a URL (website address) to enter the conference.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL WIDE AREA NETWORK CONSORTIUM



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