



# LEARN

LEADING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT  
THROUGH THE REGIONAL NETWORK

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LEARN Updates
- CAPE Memberships
- What is Web 2.0?
- Glossary of Terms

## LEARN UPDATES

The IU consortium has been working very diligently to coordinate efforts and put together high quality professional development opportunities for our LEARN Initiative.

Superintendents have received or will be receiving information about Videoconferencing Best Practices team trainings being held at each of their IUs. The goal of the training is to provide participants with the opportunity to experience videoconferencing hands-on and to learn where to find “teacher

favorite” sites for videoconferencing.

Additionally, Jim Gates from Capital Area Intermediate Unit will be conducting a workshop entitled *Web 2.0 Tools* at IUs 5, 6, and 28 the first week in December. During this dynamic presentation participants will learn about the various tools available to produce content on the Internet. To learn more about Web 2.0 check out *What is Web 2.0?* on page 2.

Finally, each district will be receiving \$2,250 to conduct videoconferencing

professional development activities within their district. Monies must be used to reimburse professional staff’s time and to purchase videoconferences for professional development. Districts will be required to submit a form indicating completion of activities prior to receiving their allocation.

The details and requirements have been or will be discussed in detail at technology and superintendent meetings at each IU.

## CAPE MEMBERSHIPS

E-Fund dollars are being used to purchase a CAPE membership for each Year 1 district. CAPE (Center for Advancing Partnerships in Education) is a consortium of primarily small and medium-sized educational and other institutions. There are currently 120+ member institutions including public and private colleges, universities, community colleges, school districts, intermediate units, medical schools and hospitals, museums and community-based organizations. CAPE’s mission is to create alliances by supporting partnerships and by using technology in imaginative ways to promote educational, cultural, and economic opportunities and strengthen communities.

CAPE member benefits include:

- Customized training and professional development in technology use and applications
- Technology consulting - needs assessment, equipment recommendations, room design
- Facilitation of postsecondary/K12 collaboration for dual enrollment courses
- E-Rate consulting
- Pedagogical best practices workshops
- Instructional design assistance
- Electronic Copyright workshops

Each district’s CAPE membership will run from February 1, 2008 until February 1, 2009. During January and February, CAPE will be visiting each IU in the consortium to talk with district administrators about member benefits and collaboration opportunities. To learn more about CAPE, check out their website at [www.ape.org](http://www.ape.org).

## WHAT IS WEB 2.0?

Web 2.0 refers to a second generation of web-based communities and hosted-services - such as social networking sites and wikis - which aim to facilitate collaboration and sharing between users. Although the term suggests a new version of the World Wide Web, it does not refer to an update to any technical specifications, but to changes in the ways software developers and end-users use the web.

The tools of Web 2.0 encompass a lot more than just blogs and wikis. The tools are changing the way we look at data. Data is being shared out from sites, thus making other sites called 'mashups' possible. Many of these sites make it possible to *create* projects using their tools and then by using the code they provide you can add your content to your own blog, wiki, or website. There are many free tools that allow educators to conduct their own online training and talk to people from around the world. Web 2.0 is an exciting place to explore! Links to explore Web 2.0 tools: [Discovery Education - Kathy Schrock's guide for educators](#); [Solution Watch: Back to School with Web 2.0](#); [Teach 42: Top 10 Free Web 2.0 Sites for Educators](#); [Go2Web2.0 - the complete Web 2.0 Directory](#).



📅 **Looking for LEARN training or meeting dates at each IU? Check out the Calendar of Events on the LEARN portal which can be accessed at [www.learninpa.org](http://www.learninpa.org).**

📅 **Want to find a site to videoconference with? Check out:  
The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration, Inc.: [www.cilc.org](http://www.cilc.org)**

**Magpi: [www.magpi.net](http://www.magpi.net)      Berrien County Intermediate School District: [www.bcisdvc.org](http://www.bcisdvc.org)**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- ☒ **Blog** - a website where entries are written in chronological order and commonly displayed in reverse chronological order. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines text, images and links to other blogs, web pages and other media related to its topic.
- ☒ **Forum** - a web application for holding discussions and posting user generated content. Internet forums are also commonly referred to as web forums, message boards, discussion boards, discussion groups, discussion forums, bulletin boards or simply forums.
- ☒ **MP3** - the most common music file format today. MP3s take up a small amount of space while still holding a high level of sound quality.
- ☒ **Mashup** - a web application that combines data from more than one source into a single integrated tool; an example is the use of cartographic data from Google Maps to add location information to real-estate data from Craigslist, thereby creating a new and distinct web service that was not originally provided by either source.
- ☒ **Moodle** - a free software e-learning platform (*also known as a Course Management System, or Learning Management Systems, or Virtual Learning Environment*). Moodle is designed to help educators create online courses with opportunities for rich interaction. Its open source license and modular design means that people can develop additional functionality.
- ☒ **Podcast** - an audio broadcast that has been converted to an MP3 file or other audio file format for playback in a digital music player or computer. Although podcasts are mostly verbal, they may contain music.
- ☒ **Streaming Media** - multimedia that is continuously received by the end-user while it is being delivered by the provider. The name refers to the delivery method of the medium rather than to the medium itself. The distinction is usually applied to media that are distributed over telecommunications networks, as most other delivery systems are either inherently streaming (e.g. radio, television) or inherently non-streaming (e.g. books, video cassettes, CDs).
- ☒ **Video on Demand** - multimedia, interactive video service, where an individual can request a video or movie to be delivered to them digitally with control options, such as pause, rewind, fast-forward, etc.
- ☒ **Wiki** - a computer software that allows users to easily create, edit and link web pages. Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites, power community websites, and are increasingly being installed by businesses to provide affordable and effective Intranets. One of the best-known wikis is Wikipedia.

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL WIDE AREA NETWORK CONSORTIUM



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