



NORTHWEST REGIONAL WIDE AREA NETWORK CONSORTIUM

LEARN

LEADING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
THROUGH THE REGIONAL NETWORK

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

LEARN Resources

Professional Development Opportunities

Discovery Streaming

LEARN Academies

Webcams in the District

LEARN RESOURCES

Want to...be an astronaut? Learn math using baseball statistics? Find out what Ancient Egyptian children did for fun? Meet critters under the sea? All without leaving your classroom or school district? Using the video and webconferencing equipment schools have received through the LEARN initiative, you can do all of this and MORE!

Under the Video/Webconferencing Resources tab of the LEARN Portal website (www.learninpa.org), you can find a listing of content providers, webconferencing programs, databases and resources. The links will take you to providers such as NASA, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the WWII Museum. These providers offer a wide variety of distance learning options you can incorporate into your classrooms.

RECENTLY ADDED - At the request of teachers who have participated in LEARN Academies, three forums have been added to the LEARN Portal under the Video/Webconferencing Resources tab. There is now a space for Elementary, Secondary and CTC teachers to connect with other teachers throughout IUs 5, 6 and 28.

Also added is a Video/Webconference Calendar tab to help the LEARN consortium manage Video Conference reservations. The intent of the calendar is to ensure that the resources you need for your Video or Web Conference are available. All reservations for a Video or Web Conference should be entered on the calendar; your reservation will not appear until it is approved by your IU regional coordinator.

Regional Coordinators: IU5: Mr. David Wrice david_wrice@iu5.org
IU6: Mr. Ken Pruitt kpruitt@riu6.org
IU28: Mr. Derrick Mergen derrick@iu28.org
IU28: Mr. Roger Damon roger@iu28.org

Visit www.learninpa.org to see all of the Video/Webconferencing resources. We are continually adding new features to the LEARN Portal, so check back often for updates and additions to the website!

Upcoming Events

The LEARN initiative provides a variety of workshops offered at IU 5, 6 and 28 for LEA professionals, administrators and IU employees.

Here's a sampling of what's on the calendar:

LEARN CTC School Academy

LEARN Mathematics Academy

LEARN Language Arts Academy

LEARN Administrators Academy

Videoconference Day

Scopia Desktop and Sony Camera Training

MAGPI/Internet2 Awareness

For dates, location and participant information, visit www.learninpa.org

DISCOVERY STREAMING

All schools in the LEARN consortium have access to [Discovery Streaming](http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com) (<http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com>), which provides free resources including videos, lesson plans, and electronic assignment builders (including an electronic quiz and writing prompt generator). A PBS video collection has been recently added to the site.

Discovery Streaming is aligned with Discovery Education which also provides numerous free educator resources.

Discovery Streaming users need to have a code. If you have questions regarding accessing Discovery Streaming, contact either your building administrator or your IU LEARN representative.

LEARN ACADEMIES



As part of the LEARN initiative, IUs 5, 6, and 28 have been conducting various Academies aimed at increasing knowledge and skills related to the new products and services available through the E-fund grant.

ARIN IU 28 recently conducted a Technology Academy for Administrators (pictured at left) entitled *Web 2.0 Tools*. Participants included 21 administrators from nine districts, two technology

centers, and the IU itself. The hands-on session was led by Jim Gates, PDE Mentor for the Classrooms for the Future program and retired Instructional Technology Trainer, Capital Area Intermediate Unit. His knowledge of and enthusiasm for the use of Web 2.0 tools in classrooms is exemplified in the description he provided prior to the workshop:

“While you’ve been busy with your regular duties you may have missed a massive change that has taken place online. The web has morphed from the medium where information was stored, to the platform on which are built some incredible tools that change - or SHOULD change, how we conduct the business of education. During this session, we’ll take a hands-on look at many of the online tools that have, perhaps, the greatest potential to change education. We’ll see tools that make true collaboration fun and easy. We’ll see tools that enable us to connect classrooms with almost anyone, and tools that finally allow us to do things that were impossible to do before, including tools called mash-ups, cloud computing, and more. You will be astounded at the kinds of tools that are available free online! If we truly believe that our job is to prepare kids for their future rather than our past, then we owe it to ourselves and those children to know about and use tools that will help them become self-guided, self-motivated, lifetime learners.”

Thanks to Jim, administrators in Armstrong and Indiana counties now have a better understanding of Web 2.0 tools and their potential to change how we conduct the business of education. Look for academies in your area at www.learningpa.org.

What can I do with a webcam?



◆ Classroom to classroom – two elementary teachers requested to use Scopio while they were in training... just to connect their classrooms.

- ◆ Superintendent and Principal meetings have been held to save the travel time between districts and the IU.
- ◆ Tom DiVecchio, an Erie area weatherman, is connected with an elementary classroom (below) to provide weather lessons.



To discover lists of worldwide webcams, free tools for classroom collaborations with webcams and much more, visit [Sites to See: Eyes on the World](http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/sites/sites081.shtml). (www.education-world.com/a_tech/sites/sites081.shtml)

Interested in connecting to a classroom outside of your school district? Use the LEARN portal to connect with teachers in IUs 5, 6 and 28 through the Video/ Webconferencing forums !!

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