



CECA Newsletter

Connecticut Educators Computer Association

Vol. XIX No. 3

CECA 2005: CLASSROOM OF MY DREAMS You've Never Been to a CECA Quite Like This

Emery Roth II

CECA is proud to invite all educators to a very special event. From its inception, CECA has tried to showcase the strategies that put computing power in the hands of kids and in the service of curriculum goals. From our conference on networking through our early advocacy of telecommunications and the internet, to our recent conferences in which teachers took home hand-held computers and digital cameras; the trend toward ubiquitous computing has been clear. Last year we focused on the power of mobile, laptop labs that connect to file servers and the internet through wireless networks. Many Connecticut schools that have added mobile labs are discovering their power. Teachers are amazed to find how quickly their classroom becomes a computer lab and how easy it is to integrate computers into any lesson.

Maine and other states to our north and east are increasingly making the dream of one-to-one computing a reality, and our governor has proposed Connecticut begin moving in that same direction. Seamless technology integration is potentially within the reach of every classroom. On October 24th we hope you will join us at a Connecticut school where that dream has become a reality. In a significant departure from past conferences, CECA 2005 will be held at Thomas Edison Technology Magnet School in Meriden, CT. This new state of the art facility will provide the setting and sometimes the focus for a very special program of sessions. They will cover integration strategies, hardware & software tools, and related issues pertaining to all levels of primary and secondary education.

As one-to-one computing spreads west from Maine, Thomas Edison Magnet School is one of a handful of Connecticut schools at the forefront of this trend. Their programs in math and science are especially notable, and their media lab may provide others with a "best practices" model, but as always, CECA will try to bring you the best speakers and most notable programs in all disciplines, at all teaching levels, and from all corners of our state and beyond.

In order to kick off proceedings, we've invited an old friend back to keynote the proceedings. When teacher and author Bard Williams spoke to us last, he had just completed his book *Internet for Teachers*. In the quickly, changing world of cyberspace, it speaks to the depth of Bard's book that it is still in print and selling well. His most recent books are, *Palm™ Handheld Computers A Complete Resource for Classroom Teacher* and *We're Getting Wired, We're Going Mobile. What's Next? Fresh Ideas for Educational Technology Planning*. They demonstrate that Bard is still a leader in the ed tech revolution. His keynote should inspire us all with a vision of the classroom of our dreams.



Last year we began a tradition of inviting attendees to bring their laptops. At Thomas Edison you will find wireless connection everywhere, so you can take notes electronically, check your e-mail any time, check the

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A Letter from President Nina Hansen

Dear Fellow CECA Members,

Here we are at the gates of Spring. Winter has certainly taken its toll but as always, we see the sun arriving and feel renewed! Have you ever had one of those “AHA” moments? A time when everything just seemed to fall into place and you knew for certain that you were on the right track.

Well, I had one of those moments recently and I would like to share it with you. In addition to serving as CECA President, I have also been involved with the CECA annual conference for the past five years or so. Each year I am amazed at the level of commitment and expertise that is showcased at the conference. As many of you can appreciate, I truly look forward to attending each year.

But, each year I struggle with the balance between the promise of technology and the realities in the classroom. As I look back over the themes of the past conferences I see that struggle reflected. Words like “Dream”, “Imagine”, “Odyssey” are used to conjure up images of what might be. This year’s theme, “The Classroom of Your Dreams” presented a challenge. The conference committee members were determined to move from promise to reality. The challenge of how to make that happen loomed before us.

And then we were invited to visit Thomas Edison Magnet Middle School in Meriden. And, as I walked through the halls that flash of lightening went off, that “AHA” moment when I knew what we had to do. Here was a living real example of a school that was putting into practice many of the things we have been showcasing. Here was an actual school complete with all of the issues, problems, uncertainties that we all deal with. However, they also worked through those things and found some real solutions. And, although they may not have answered all the questions, they certainly have made a reality emerge. The fact is,

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Changing Faces at CECA

Paul Hunter

Mary Esborn has decided to retire from her position as CECA Executive Secretary, effective April 30. Mary was hired for the newly created position in 1997 when she retired from teaching in the Guilford Public Schools. Mary has provided innumerable services as part of this position. She has handled all aspects of registration for the annual CECA conference, held at the end of October, as well as registration for special CECA events. She has put together mailings, printed brochures, bought supplies, answered questions, coordinated many aspects of CECA and organized our lives. Mary has also served on the CECA Board of Directors for many years, and as part of her duties as board member volunteered as CECA’s webmaster, Listserve manager, and Newsletter editor. We will all miss Mary and her talents enormously!

Rick Wood has been hired to replace Mary as the Executive Secretary, starting May 1. Rick served as a CECA Board member from 1991 through 1998. He was a conference cochair for several years and put together the original CECA database, which is still being used today. Rick is a Technology Teacher and Coordinator for the past 20 years in the Woodbridge Public Schools, and has been teaching there for 25 years. Rick enjoys directing a handbell choir and canoeing and backpacking in the wilderness in his spare time. We welcome Rick and are looking forward to his ideas and expertise.

Two CECA Board members have volunteered to take over some of the other jobs which Mary did as part of her board member duties. Suzanne Weber, who is a technology integration teacher for the K-5 Berlin Public Schools, has volunteered to be the CECA webmaster. Suzanne has over 20 years of teaching experience and joined the CECA Board of Directors

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CLASSROOM OF MY DREAMS

products displayed by our vendors, and instantly view the web sites our presenters refer you to. If you’re not yet wireless, you have six months to get ready.

Last year we told you about a sixth grade teacher’s delight the first day the Shepaug School laptop lab rolled into her room. As her students passed out the laptops and clicked on the url link she’d set up for them, she exclaimed, “This is the classroom of my dreams.” This year we invite you to witness truly seamless integration at a school where she wouldn’t have had to pass out laptops because at Thomas Edison laptops are as ubiquitous as pencils. Put the date, October 24th, in your calendar now.

CECA Welcomes New CECA Advisors

The following people have joined our team in our Advisor Program and added representation for the following school districts. Our team of Advisors continues to grow.

Our goal is to have at least one Advisor from each school district in Connecticut.

Bethany - Toby Zabinski
Bozrah - Jamie Owen
Canton - David Oliver
Cornwall - Vicky Nelson
Danbury - Barbara Myers-Letson
Groton - Judy Goldsmith-Karp
Hamden - Arlene Herens
Hartford - Debbie Mortensen
Madison - Noel Heimer
Manchester - Sharon Willhelm
Meriden - Kim Cadwell
Middletown - Roberta Avery
Region 13 - Tracy Earnshaw
Ridgefield - Laura Webber
Seymour - Kristen Clark Hammond
Stratford - Janet Lengel
Waterbury - Jennifer Kizis
West Hartford - Jeanne Pascon
West Haven - Patti Fusco
Catholic Schools Archdiocese of Hartford -
Michael Ganci
CT Technical High School System -
Teresa Boyd Cowles
LEARN - Kristen Hoyt

Advisors are a critical link for CECA to school districts. We were very fortunate to have two opportunities to meet with Advisors at CECA 2004. The “breakfast by the pool” afforded Advisors a chance to meet and have express check-in for the conference. In the afternoon at the Technology Party again it was a chance to connect and Advisors had reserved seating.



Join our Team- Become a CECA Advisor

Together we can make a difference in Connecticut!
*It is not too late to become participate in the program.
We need representatives from each district.*

- *CECA Advisors must be a current member of CECA.*
- *The CECA Board and CECA Advisors serve as liaisons to help exchange information between educators in their school or district.*
- *The Advisor determines the method selected to disseminate information provided by the CECA Board member contact. Advisors have shared information using e-mail, newsletters, printing information updates for distribution to teachers, memos and announcements at faculty meetings.*

Please consider becoming an Advisor. To learn more about the CECA Advisor Program go to our website and click on the CECA Advisors link to view the CECA Advisor brochure. You can sign-up at <http://www.ceca-ct.org/>, just click on the Advisor Link.

If you would like further information about the CECA Advisor Program contact either Diane E. George, CECA Advisor Co-Chair Branford, Public Schools dgeorge@branford.k12.ct.us or Patricia Palmer, CECA Advisor Co-Chair North Canaan Public Schools palm_tree@snet.net.

www.education-world.com
Lesson Planning
Administrators' Desk
School Issues
Professional Development
Technology Integration
EdWorld at Home

CECA 2005: Classroom of My Dreams

Call for Presenters

You can play a part in the success of this year's conference. This year, more than any other, we are showcasing classroom teachers who have realized a part of the technology dream. We need you to share those experiences with your colleagues. Please seriously consider becoming part of the CECA conference team.

CECA prides itself in offering our state educational community exemplary lessons and classroom models of technology integration. We keep the teaching community current and informed in the latest trends and issues in the information, communications and technology field. Our conference offers a diversified program by tapping into the talents of teachers and leaders throughout the state who are turning possibilities into realities. But we cannot continue to carry out our mission without your help.

If you are involved in successful projects or programs with technology and learning, simply fill out an application for consideration. We are seeking integration in all curricular areas, at all levels. If technology has made a difference in the way you teach and the way your students learn, we need to hear about it. It doesn't matter if you teach elementary special ed, high school Modern Language, middle school ESL, or college level courses. The application process is simple and can be found on our website at <http://www.ceca-ct.org> <<http://www.ceca-ct.org>> .

If you have never presented and would like more information as to how to get started, or, if you have any questions about your presentation application, please contact Nina Hansen (nhansen@ccec.org). Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Please find the application form on our website and fill it out today. Presenting to colleagues is a tremendous professional growth experience.

Nina Hansen

And a Good Time Was Had By All!

Eleventh Annual CECA Tech Expo

April 6, 2004

Well, another CECA Tech Expo has come and gone! Yesterday's event was a terrific success! All the tables were filled.....the hall was noisy and filled with energy....both teachers and kids were thrilled and excited to be there.....lots and lots of people passed by.....PLUS at least eight legislators came by and spoke with groups of kids and had their photos taken..... along with Fox-61 news.....we're sure we made a difference somewhere to someone....kids, legislators, teachers, etc.

Thanks to every teacher who brought a group of kids to the Tech Expo! We are happy that your efforts have a showcase at the Tech Expo, enabling us to highlight the effect of technology integration in Connecticut Schools.

Special "thank you" to the following CECA Board members for their support, hard work and good natures at yesterday's event:

- to Tom Buckley, who contacted all the media, knows every legislator who comes through, and pays attention to the details!
- to Debbie Miller, who hustled around, taking snaps of every group and kept track of all the photo permission forms!
- to Dave Evon, who LOVES the Tech Expo, and helps out anywhere he's needed!
- to John Kalinowski, who was there bright and early, helping Nancy bring in PILES of stuff!
- to Cheryl Prevost, who went out of her way to meet Anne at 7:45 a.m. to bring the CEA parking tickets (and Lord knows, parking was an issue!)
- to Howard Gunther, who walks right in and says "What can I do?" and then does it! — and likes Nancy's jelly beans!
- to Josh Smith, who helped out whenever he could, in between his "Vanna White" appointment!
- to Art Skerker, who lent his support in the beginning of the day!

Next year's Tech Expo has been booked already for Wednesday, April 5th, plus the Capitol tours have been booked also. Mark your calendars! Thanks again!

*Anne Coffey
Co-Chair, Tech Expo*

President's Letter

Thomas Edison is but one example of a school that has made a tough commitment to fully integrating technology. It happens that I work in such a school each day. Yet it took this "revelation" it you will for me to connect the dots.

At that moment I knew we had to work through any logistical issues and bring the conference where it belongs, into a school. Where better to talk about the realities of what we need to do, then in a location where it is happening. What made my 'AHA' even more exciting is that my committee members had the same reaction. And so, a totally new idea was born. We know it will take ten times the amount of work, but the end result will be amazing. We will need more presenters than ever. We will need more behind the scene workers. This will truly be a monumental task. But in the end, like the warmth of spring, I believe those who attend the conference we become renewed. And hopefully each attendee will have his or her own "AHA" moment.

CECA 2005
Classroom of My Dreams
October 24, 2005

Thomas Edison Middle School
1355 North Broad Street
Meriden CT

Keynote: Bard Williams
Teacher, Author, Entrepreneur

www.bardwilliams.com

Changing Faces

last fall. Paul Hunter, who is a Learning Facilitator for Technology for the Greenwich Public Schools, has volunteered to be the CECA Listserve manager. Paul has over 30 years of teaching experience and joined the CECA Board of Directors in 1991. He has served as conference cochair for several years, was President of CECA in the mid-90s, and is currently Membership chairperson.

As CECA makes this transition please watch for future announcements about our new mailing address and other changes. Please join us in wishing Mary a happy and care free retirement!

IMPORTANT
New CECA mailing address
After April 30
CECA
PO Box 31
Bethlehem, CT 06751

CECA-CT Website update

Dave Evont

The CECA Website has a new Webmaster. CECA board member Sue Weber has recently assumed responsibility for design and upkeep of our Website. Sue has been the Webmaster of several Websites including two of Berlin Public School's Webs. In addition to her own work as a Web designer she has instructed many other teachers in the use of Web building for classroom support and has been a driving force behind many other Web based initiatives. We can look forward to an evolving new presence for CECA on the Web in the months to come.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank soon to retire CECA board member Mary Esborn for maintaining the CECA Web for eight years. Mary's dedication has kept our Web site up-to date with the latest CECA information and Web design elements.

Please note the CECA Website was off the air for a couple of weeks in March due to a change in the Internet connectivity of the server hosting our site. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

iCONN list

To receive pertinent and timely information about iCONN, we invite you to subscribe to the newly created iCONN list using the online subscription form at: <http://lists.auto-graphics.com/mailman/listinfo/iconn>

This service has been created as a one-way list (i.e., you will not be able to send messages to it) so that we can keep you better informed about iCONN, including any training opportunities.

This list is separate from the online forms that are available to you now at <http://iconn.auto-graphics.com/SendComments.aspx> (for sending comments and suggestions) and <http://iconn.auto-graphics.com/ProblemReports.aspx> (for reporting problems). We welcome your comments, suggestions and problem reports as they will help us to improve the system to better meet your needs.

We hope you will take advantage of this new list so that we can assist you in making a smoother transition to the new version of iCONN!

William Sullivan,
Administrator Connecticut Digital Library
www.iconn.org
786 South Main Street,
Middletown, CT 06457
wsullivan@cslib.org
tel: 860-344-2526 or 888-256-1222 (toll-free)

Imagine one full day without technology...

The lesson plans, activities and supporting materials within A Technology Blackout Day Website (<<http://www.technologyblackoutday.com/>><http://www.technologyblackoutday.com/>) will help you and your students take a journey through time that examines the impact of technology on our society. We ask you to begin to imagine the impact that technology will have on students entering the 21st century workforce and the possibilities inherent in a technology literate society. Modern technologies have revolutionized business and enhance teaching and learning with data driven decision making, curriculum management for individualized instruction, and online learning that helps close the achievement gap and

builds teacher quality and retention.

We hope that students, teachers and parents will realize the importance of technology today and it's growing impact on students entering the 21st century workforce as well as the obvious possibilities if our nation develops a technology literate society. The Imagine A Technology Blackout Day can be a short exercise on April 20th, or a more comprehensive process of self exploration throughout the course of a few weeks or a month. <<http://www.technologyblackoutday.com/gpage6.html>>Prizes will be awarded randomly to participants who submit their results on or before May 20th, 2005. Beginning with a brief overview and technology timeline, your students may develop their own definition of technology and analyze the impact that innovation has had on their daily lives and our nation. Addressing state standards in social studies and language arts,

Imagine A Technology Blackout Day will also reinforce efficacy, innovation, traditional literacy and technology skills. Obviously, if your school is on spring vacation during the week of April 18th through the 22nd., you won't be able to participate in an in-school activity on 20th. You are encouraged to select another day, when school is in session, or perhaps talk to your students about not using technology at home on the 20th. The purpose of the exercise, whether it takes place during a period, a day, or several days, is to raise the level of consciousness in our communities as to how technology has become a vital part of everyday life. You and your students are very aware of how technology has affected instruction; we need to get that message out to our parents and most importantly, our elected officials.

*Art Skerker
State Department of Education*

Highlights of Governor Rell's Laptop Initiative

Overview of Program:

Laptops, equipped with wireless Internet access and multiple applications will be provided to all 9th and 10th grade English classes. These technology tools will allow students to develop improved writing skills and other skills vital for success in the 21st Century. Technical support and extensive teacher professional development are other essential elements of the initiative.

Goals of Program:

- o Advance student writing and research skills
- o Increase student organizational skills, productivity
- o Better prepare students for world beyond high school (college or workforce)
- o Provide equity in technology tools among all CT high schools

Elements of Program:

- o Laptops for 9/10 grade English teachers
- o Laptop carts for each 9/10 grade English class:
 - 24-30 Computers
 - Wireless hub
 - Printer
- o Wireless connectivity of laptops to the CEN
- o Software and online applications
 - MS Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
 - Concept mapping and webbing software
 - Online Writing Tool (Artificially intelligent essay scoring and feedback tool) Criterion from ETS and My Access! from Vantage Learning are the only two products that are currently available that perform the desired functions.
- o Professional development for teachers
- o Technical support
- o Stipends for school-based curriculum integration specialists

Research Based

- o The educational research on the use of computers and word processors is overwhelmingly persuasive that they improve student achievement in all areas of writing – content,

organization, language/voice/style, and mechanics.

- o Students using online writing tool significantly improve their writing skills as measured by classroom-based and standardized tests. ESL students and those from economically disadvantaged schools show the greatest improvements.

WEB LINKS FOR EDUCATORS

CENSUSSCOPE

The CENSUSSCOPE Web site, produced by the Social Science Data Analysis Network at the University of Michigan, is an easy-to-use tool for investigating U.S. demographic trends. Based on 2000 U.S. Census data, the site offers full-color maps and charts with state-by-state information on population growth, racial statistics, age distribution and education attainment.

<http://www.censusscope.org>

Department of Education Publications

The U.S. Department of Education announces the launch of its new ED Pubs Online Ordering System. All publications are provided at no cost to the general public by the U.S. Department of Education.

www.edpubs.org

Copyright 101 for Educators

See updated guidelines on the use of multimedia materials in educational contexts as of the winter of 2003.

http://techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/copywes.html

“Technology Counts 2003, Pencils Down: Technology’s Answer to Testing”

Education Week’s sixth annual report on school technology includes state-by-state data on school computer use. (Requires one time registration for EdWeek.)

<http://www.edweek.org/sreports/tc03/>

ENC (Eisenhower National Clearinghouse)

Check out the Digital Dozen for web sites to engage in fun summer learning with kids of all ages.

<http://www.enc.org>

CECA 2005 Call for Presenters

- All subject areas
- All grade levels
- All aspects of computer technologies

Presenter applications are at:
www.ceca-ct.org/CECA2005

**All proposals must be received
by
May 15, 2005**

CECA Officers 2004-2005

Nina Hansen, President
David Evon, 1st Vice Pres. CECA 2004
Co-chair
Joshua Smith, 2nd Vice Pres.
Pat Palmer, Recording Secretary
Bob Wilcox, Treasurer
Howard Gunther, Past President
John Kalinowski, CECA Vendor Chair
Paul Hunter, Membership Chairperson
Emery Roth II, CECA 2004 Co-chair
Debbie Miller, Presenters' Chair, CECA
2004 Co-chair
Sue Weber, CECA Webmaster
Rick Wood, Executive Secretary, Confer-
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