



CECA Newsletter

Connecticut Educators Computer Association

Vol. XVIII No. 2

10th Annual Tech Expo at the Legislative Office Building

Wednesday, April 7, 2004 9:00 - 1:15

School districts across the state are invited to apply to participate in CECA's 10th Annual Legislative Technology Exposition on April 7. The Tech Expo is a wonderful time to demonstrate to legislators how students use technology to support the learning process.

Invitations and applications have been sent to superintendents, tech coordinators and are on the CECA website. Groups, with a maximum of 4 students per group, are needed from all regions of the state and all levels K-12. All groups must apply and

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CECA EDUCATOR RECOGNITION AWARD

\$1000 - \$1000 - \$1000

Are you doing something special, unique, or unusual in your classroom with computer technology?

Are you making significant improvements in student achievement because of innovative and creative applications of modern technology?

The Connecticut Educators' Computer Association has established three \$1000 awards to recognize and encourage excellence in the application of technology to classroom learning.

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CECA Scrapbook Update

CECA's Connecticut Scrapbook is off to a fine start. Attendees at CECA 2003: Picture the Possibilities have been using their new Hewlett-Packard cameras to photograph an event or a site in their town, and many towns are now pinpointed on our state map. The site is up and running at:

http://www.ceca-ct.org/CECA2003/ceca_scrap/

As you will see when you visit, most of the participants come from the western half of the state, and we are eager to learn more about the vast wilderness in the east. Could this territory be uninhabited? There are still prizes to be won, and the fun is now open to all CECA members. However, the official deadline for winning prizes is November 30th. All you need to do is follow the instructions on the site and send us your photos and paragraphs. We'll build the page for you.

We hope that the CECA Scrapbook will encourage classroom teachers to design class activities that get their students photographing and writing about their towns. In fact, the site already contains links to a few such school sites. Toward that end, CECA will continue to add links from our map to web

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Scrapbook

pages on school sites at least throughout the current 2003-2004 school year. Such sites must support the basic theme of the CECA Scrapbook as stated on the site.

We've been including e-mail addresses on all of the teacher pages we've put on the site. We hope that you'll use these to send your encouragement to those teachers who have participated. More importantly, we hope those addresses prove useful in linking classes from across the state which share an interest in town life and history.

Many teachers have written to us commenting on how useful this project can be in the teaching of writing, history, and civics. We'd suggest that the project might also find its place in classes on the environment and the arts, and there may even be creative ways to connect the CECA Scrapbook to the teaching of mathematics, other areas of science, and other topics. With a little bit of encouragement from Connecticut teachers, we'd happily add a section to the CECA Scrapbook that included your lesson designs.

In any case, it is our intent to keep CECA Scrapbook growing so long as there is interest from all of you. Please send us your photos and paragraphs and your site links. Contacts regarding CECA Scrapbook should be sent to Emery Roth at eshtooter@aol.com Δ

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Tech Expo

only groups that have been pre-approved may participate.

Demonstrations are needed from any and all subject areas where technology is used as an integral part of the learning process. It is also important to show how the incorporation of technology into the curriculum supports the skills tested on the CMT and the CAPT and prepares students for future work place skills.

We are able to accommodate 30 groups in three sessions. Session times will run from 9:00 am - 10:15 am; 10:30 am - 11:45 am and 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm. Students and teachers will be able to see demonstrations of technology integration from many schools, visit the Capitol and see their legislators at work.

Check the CECA website for pictures from the Tech Expo in May, 2003. We look forward to another good session with exciting examples of how technology is used in the classroom. Δ

Technology: It's Not All on the Internet

Emery Roth (eshtooter@aol.com)

In recent workshops I've given in New England schools I've found the enthusiasm of classroom teachers for integrating technology to be continually increasing. This is encouraging given the general reduction in funding for technology from state and other outside sources. However, for most teachers the focus is mostly on using the rich resources of the internet to gather information. Important as the internet is as a source of information, there are many simple uses for technology that are compatible with even older, slower computers that frequently break down on the digital super highway.

One very simple technique was passed my way as a result of CECA's delivery of 800 digital cameras into the hands of classroom teachers at our fall conference. The teacher found that students completing science labs often forgot the procedures and content of the lab. He thought the camera might be a useful way to reinforce student understanding of what they had recently done.

This teacher has been sharing his new camera with his science students, letting them use it to photograph the steps they go through in their biology labs. After students and the teacher photograph each other at work on the lab, the photos are put on the school network. From there students are asked to select photos and use them to explain and illustrate their lab reports. Once the photos were on the school network, even the slowest computers could handle them, and some students grabbed them and took them home to complete their labs on their own computers.

As the teacher had already required all labs to be word processed, adding the photos was a small step requiring little additional time. The extra bit of time forced all students to rethink all they had done in the lab. It also got all students to make use of the simple technology for integrating digital images with text reports. Yes, our computers whizzes do that easily, but what about the others? Some students found that concepts difficult to explain with words alone, could be easily explained by adding a picture. Once students have created illustrated science labs, we wonder if illustrated reports in other classes will follow. Imagine social studies papers illustrated with images scanned from books or grabbed from the web. Consider illustrated papers in tech ed or illustrated field trips. Picture the possibilities. Δ

Tech Corner

with David Evon

Popup windows constantly annoy many PC users, sometimes even when their browser window is not open.

Often these popups include references to the user's name, email address, and other personal information. A common reaction is "who's spying on me?" Being spied on is exactly the case.

Have you found toolbars in Internet Explorer that you don't remember putting there? Does your browser crash often? Users are constantly installing spyware on their computers while browsing the Internet. Sometimes it happens automatically but often users choose to install products that perform functions other than what they may expect.

Web sites that bury pieces of spyware on the fly without your knowledge are hard to avoid, but when you are offered customized Web page settings or the convenience of an accessory toolbar you can pretty much bet you will be installing software used to track your surfing habits. The data collected by spyware is sold to advertisers or possibly worse.

Another great way to compromise your computer with spyware, never mind bogging it down with unnecessary software, is to install those fancy screensavers or active wallpapers offered for free download. ClipArt sites are known for offering pluggins to access their graphics that are really spyware in disguise. These software packages are not so free when you consider the amount of devious software they plant in your computer.

So what can we do about this problem? Some simple precautions can help. Don't download and install screensavers; they're not worth the trouble they may cause. Don't click OK on all the free software that is offered to help enhance your Internet experience. Read carefully before you click. If you are presented with a message box that you can't figure out how to cancel, just shut down your browser and avoid that Web site. As always be sure to keep your OS and browser software up to date.

What do you need to download for a pleasant Internet experience? The common pluggins needed to view most online content are: Acrobat, QuickTime, Flash, Shockwave, and possibly RealPlayer.

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Now that you're conscience of the fact that your PC is loaded with spyware (you are most likely infected even if you don't see the obvious signs) what can you do about it? There are two very good programs available for free that will help manage your spyware troubles. Spybot and Ad-aware will scan and remove spyware files from your PC. Spybot is free and available for download at:

<http://www.safer-networking.org>

The free version of Ad-aware is available at: <http://www.lavasoft.de/support/download>

These programs should be run on a regular basis, at least once a week, to eliminate spyware programs from your computer. Happy computing! Δ

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CECA Awards

One award will be given at each level: elementary, middle, and high school. All teachers in Connecticut public or private schools are eligible. Individuals or teams may submit proposals for work that has or will achieve notable results. This is a merit award to be used at the discretion of the winner(s).

Further information can be found online at:

www.ceca-ct.org

or by mail at:

CECA Awards

P.O. Box 1019

Branford, CT 06405

The award application must be postmarked by March 15, 2004.

Previous CECA Educator Recognition Awards

"School News"

A yearlong project involving first grade students. Each day the students created a text document focusing on their activities in school. Students used a digital camera or clip art to add illustration to their text. These documents became a weekly newsletter, which was posted on a classroom webpage and also sent home via email. This created a back and forth communication between parent and child and between home and school

Given to a computer resource teacher.

"Vietnam: 612 Casualties, Up Close and Personal"
There are 612 names of Connecticut servicemen on

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CECA Awards

the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. This project researched each name and compiled information about that veteran into a book. Students used Internet sites, established databases along with mailing lists, and used word processing as they compiled information on each person.

Given to a middle school team of three teachers (social studies, reading, and computers)

“Statistically Speaking”

In this activity students learned what is statistically true of their age group as they generated questionnaires, analyzed results, and presented their findings in a PowerPoint presentation. Students also used FrontPage and Access software, while becoming familiar with the fundamentals of data collection and analysis.

Given to a sixth grade math teacher.

“E-Commerce Economics and the Internet”

A study of e-commerce economics. Students conducted research on the Internet, communicated ideas and information using spreadsheet software, and created presentations on specific e-businesses using PowerPoint.

Given to a high school business teacher.

“Walking Through the World (Paseos por el mundo)”

In this project, students noted the similarities between their own cultural and others. They investigated Hispanic communities in the United States, the origins of these communities in Latin America, and the origins of those communities in Spain. They then tied these together by studying international agreements, treaties, or resolutions between the United States and a Hispanic country, and evaluated the positive and negative outcomes of the agreement on each.

Given to a high school world language teacher. Δ

CEUs for CECA 2003

By the time you get this newsletter you should have your CEU Certificates in hand. If you have not received them please contact Mary Esborn at maesborn@snet.net putting CEU Question in the subject line.

CECA 2004 Presenters

As the new year starts, we turn to plans for CECA 2004. The success of our CECA conference is built around dynamic presenter workshops. We are looking for presenters who are excited about the technology they are using in their classroom. We are also looking for technology leaders who are exploring new technologies and want to share their vision. If you use an application in a new and innovative way, would you be willing to share your ideas by presenting a workshop?

We look to balance the conference workshops. We hope to cover varied aspects of technology and all grade levels. Our membership's knowledge and skill base has grown, and we feel there is a need for our workshops to grow as well. We hope to find presenters willing to present advanced level workshop. These might cover the advanced use of one application or how to stretch students use of an application.

If you are excited about a project, we would love to hear about it. If you know of someone that you feel would be a good presenter, please ask them if they would be willing to present a workshop. We need your help. You are the people in the field who know the movers and the shakers. Help us make it another great conference.

Our Mini-Workshops were an unqualified success this year. We hope to do two sessions of mini-workshops. Do you have a pet project or great idea to share? Do you enjoy small group discussions? Presenters are needed to fill this CECA workshop format. There will be 8-10 presenters who will deliver 15 minute presentations in a roundtable format during a one hour conference session. Each presenter repeats their presentation 3 times during the session. The topics can range from tips & tricks, mini-lessons, software demonstrations, classroom projects, etc. A laptop slide show or demonstration makes an ideal presentation method.

You will find both the full and mini workshop application on the CECA web site www.ceca-ct.org/ **CECA2004**. The application should be copied and pasted into a word processor and emailed to debbiemiller@mac.com The success of our conference is dependent on your help finding the best presenters possible. Thanks for your help. Δ

Debbie Miller

CECA Newsletter

NEW FileMaker Pricing for CECA Members

Did you know that the vast majority of schools within the USA pay SIGNIFICANTLY more for FileMaker licenses than do CECA members?

Because of CECA, ANY School in Connecticut may purchase FileMaker licenses at these prices. Other states pay \$122 or more per FileMaker License, and \$799 for the server. Although FileMaker just announced a slight price increase for some of its licenses, CECA members pay \$73 for new FMP licenses and just \$449 for the server. One M/W media cd is included with the license order, but additional ones may be added, at time of license purchase, for just \$3 each. Since FileMaker includes work at home privileges for the educator, up to the number of licenses owned per site, \$3 is a low cost way to keep your staff Filemaker literate. FileMaker offers a great website for educators, with lesson plans, activities, focus on schools and individuals using the products, etc. Currently, a great article w/ some how to's included, entitled USING FILEMAKER PRO WITH EXCEL is your's for the download. Go to http://www.filemaker.com/k12/k12_solution_6.html. Also, visit <http://www.filemaker.com/excel/> for advice on how to transform your Excel spreadsheets into FileMaker solutions. Just announced price changes for CECA are as follows (old price is in parenthesis)..Remember there is NO minimum order for CECA members.

FileMaker Pro New license \$73 (\$69) FileMaker Pro Upgrade lic \$48 (\$45)

FileMaker Server New license \$449 (\$439) Filemaker Server Upgrade license \$269 (\$295)

FileMaker Pro Unlimited New License \$449 (\$439) Filemaker Pro Unlimited Upgrade license \$269 (\$295)

FileMaker Developer New License \$229 (\$389) FileMaker Developer Upgrade License \$139 (\$295)

FileMaker Mobile New License \$35 (\$39) NO upgrade path.

For more information, call : K-12 MicroMedia Publishing at (800) 292-1997 or

email Ryan Galloway at ryang@k12mmp.com Δ

CECA Adobe CLP Members Enjoy the Lowest Cost & Best Policies

During 2003, CECA entered into TWO Contractual Licensing Agreements with K-12 MicroMedia Publishing and Adobe. These CLP contracts give interested members' schools the lowest pricing and best policies on their Adobe purchases. Using a group buy approach, CECA CLP participating districts, and their schools are able to purchase as few as ONE Adobe license, at a price MUCH LESS than they would pay under any other Adobe plan. Compare this with the 20 point minimum required PER ORDER under Adobe Transactional Licensing plus the higher prices of those licenses, and you can understand why 82 CECA schools are now CLP members.

For example: under a CLP, the member can buy a single license of Adobe's new Creative Suite (NEW versions of Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, GoLive & Acrobat Pro 6 plus a phenomenal management system, Version Cue) for just \$175 each.. The media cd costs \$23.85 (Yes! all of the titles are now on ONE CD.) Under Transactional Licensing, you would have to buy FOUR licenses to meet the required 20 point minimum, and pay approximately \$250 PER LICENSE.

Under BOTH CLP and Transactional licensing, the school/district OWNS the license, unlike the Microsoft K-12 Agreement. Work at home privileges for the teacher assigned to a licensed computer are granted as well. There is absolutely NO down side to a CECA member's private school or public school district becoming an Adobe CLP member. Under their agreement with CECA, K-12 MicroMedia Publishing handles the paperwork, reporting, and delivery of product, which would normally fall onto the shoulders of the CLP contract holder. They provide a hardcopy of an Adobe license for each order, and are there with answers for any questions or concerns you may have. K12MMP also keeps members informed as to the latest offerings of FREE training, curriculum, templates, etc. offered by Adobe, and makes sure that promotions are passed on to the customer, even if the PO comes in with a non-promo price.

Their newsletter, Notes & News on Technology, offers good advice, websites of interest, and noteworthy happenings that affect educators everywhere....and it's free to CECA members. A pdf of the just released newsletter may be found at www.k12mmp.com . Once at the site,

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click on newsletter tab. You'll find a wealth of useful, "I didn't know that" information.

* **CECA CLP 1** is performing well, however, ** **CECA CLP 2** members have fallen behind, and are in danger of losing their CLP status. We believe it is more a matter of "I forgot I had this wonderful CECA benefit", than a disinterest in Adobe products.

Below, we have listed the individual schools, and/or district members under each CECA Adobe CLP. If you have a need for Adobe product, and want the very lowest prices applied to as few as ONE license, contact Lori, Ryan or Odessa. All information is provided below. If you are a member of CECA and do NOT see your district, or school listed, please have your district Tech Coordinator contact Odessa (888) 512-1998 to be included on an upcoming CECA CLP contract.

For information on any of the special pricing contracts held by CECA for its members, contact ; Lori McCaughey lori@k12mmp.com or Ryan Galloway at 800-292-1997 ryang@k12mmp.com
Odessa Criales at 888-512-1998 odessa@k12mmp.com or ocriales@aol.com Δ

** CECA I CLP participating districts*

*Regional School District #12
Archdiocese of Hartford
Beecher Road School
Berlin Public Schools
Bethel Public Schools
Brookfield Public Schools
Brookfield Public Schools
Brooklyn Schools
Canaan School District
CREC-Two Rivers Magnet School
Daisy Ingraham School
Danbury Public Schools
Diocese of Bridgeport
East Haddam Schools
Easton Public Schools
Ellington Public Schools
Ezra Academu
Greenwich Country Day School
Greenwich Public Schools
Greenwich Public Schools
Groton Public Schools
Groton Public Schools
Hartford Public Schools
HKHS
Litchfield Public Schools
Madison Schools
Middletown Public Schools
Milford Public Schools
Milford Public Schools
Montville Schools
New Britain Public Schools
New Fairfield Schools
New Haven Public Schools*

*New Milford Public Schools
North Canaan Schools
Norwalk Public Schools
Old Saybrook Public Schools
Plainville School District
Pomfret School
Regional Multicultural
Magnet School
Regional School District #12
Regional School District #17
Regional School District #17
Regional School District #19
Regional School District #6
Ridgefield Public Schools
Rocky Hill Public Schools
Salisbury Central Schools
South Windsor Public Schools
Suffield Public Schools
The Independent Day School
Trumbull Public Schools
USD #1
Vernon Public Schools
Vernon Public Schools
Waterbury Schools
Watertown High School
Watkinson School
West Hartford Public Schools
Wethersfield Public Schools
Windsor Public Schools
Weston Public Schools
Glastonbury Public Schools*

*** CECA II CLP participants*

*Regional School District #12
North Branford Public Schools
Pomfret Public Schools
New Britain Public Schools
New Fairfield Schools
Norwalk Public Schools
Greenwich Public Schools
Regional School District #14
Eagle Hill School
New Haven Schools (Strong Academy)
Regional School District #17
Plymouth Public Schools
Hartford School District
Regional School District #4
Regional School District #4
Regional School District #4
Regional School District #15
Weston Public Schools
Glastonbury Public Schools
Salisbury Central Schools*

Advance excellent teaching with Annenberg/CPB.

JOURNEY NORTH

Spring into science! Join us this February as we begin to track spring's journey across the Northern Hemisphere through this internet-based program. <http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/jnorth1.html>

You can see the JOURNEY NORTH video program on the Annenberg/CPB Channel January 14 and throughout the spring semester: <http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/jnorthchnnl2.html>

The Gift of Professional Growth

As the dust settles from another busy holiday season, consider giving one more gift—to yourself. During the spring season, Annenberg/CPB will offer 40 workshops and courses, ten libraries, and 36 series available for free through broadcast, Web simulcast, and Video on Demand, or through purchased tapes.

See the complete listing of workshops and courses, or search by grade level and/or discipline in “Browse Teacher Resources” bar throughout Learner.org. Register for free support materials and to earn free Certificates of Participation. Graduate credit is also available, at a reasonable cost, for many of these offerings. What a great gift!

List of Workshops and Courses <http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/list3.html>
Register <http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/register4.html>
Graduate Credit <http://www.learner.org/redirect/january/gradcredit5.html>

TECHNOLOGY CONNECTS KIDS WITH NATURE

Raptors in the City

How do you catch a glimpse of the fastest creature on earth? Go online! “Raptors in the City” is a real-time, inquiry-based science and technology program for grades 4-6 that stars the peregrine falcon. The peregrine has recovered from near extinction and was removed from the List of Endangered Species in 1999, one of the great success stories in the field of wildlife conservation. The online portion of Raptors in the City guides children through nesting season (roughly February to June) as they watch the still rare falcons live via cameras mounted on skyscrapers. The curriculum supports one semester of study, and the students learn environmental, biological, and technological lessons, as well as research skills, tied

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to national science and technology standards. Curriculum materials and books for falcon study are available at low cost at www.raptorsinthecity.org. It's easy - no software to install. Nesting season (and the the Raptors in the City program) begins in February 2004.

To subscribe to the free “Falcon Flash” e-newsletter, weekly bulletins and pictures from the program's study nestsite during nesting season, reply to this message with “subscribe” in the subject.

For more information visit: <http://www.raptorsinthecity.org>
www.raptorsinthecity.org
Raptors in the City is a featured link on NationalGeographic.com's “Geography Action!” http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction/habitats/cities_suburbs.html
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction/habitats/cities_suburbs.html

Contact person: Deborah Mathies
177 W. Norwalk Rd.
Norwalk, CT 06850 (203) 831-0855,
e-mail: raptors@optonline.net Δ

Ma Toot's Crash Tip

My wife gives me great tech advice.

It took me over a week to figure out why my computer was freezing last winter. The computer ran flawlessly while I worked. However, whenever I walked away from the computer, I'd come back to find it frozen. I should have been much quicker to recognize a common enemy of computers, static electricity. The area between my computer and my music system took me over the shag carpet. The problem occurred with the arrival of cold, dry air. Every time I returned from changing the CD, I'd be ready to make my work swing, and the computer would seize up.

I began searching the internet for anti-static floor mats when my wife called into me, “Why not try anti-static laundry spray?”

“Silly!” I thought, but we already had a can of the laundry stuff, and floor mats were expensive. Don't get me wrong, my wife is an excellent computer user but her thing is bagpipes, a technology at least as demanding as computer trouble-shooting, but culturally different. Her solution, though I resisted, worked like magic. I sprayed a bit of the “stuff” (What is it? There's no ingredient label.) on the carpet between my computer and my music. It really did seem like magic. Highly recommended! I'm also doing the laundry more frequently now and benefitting from a bit of cross-cultural learning. Δ

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CECA 2004

Call for Presenters

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

Presenter applications are at:
www.ceca-ct.org/CECA2004 **

**All proposals must be received
by
April 10, 2004**

** Application also included in this newsletter.



CECA Newsletter
P.O.Box 1019
Branford, CT 06405

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