

Technology Update

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES (TI) MISSION STATEMENT: Technology Initiatives assists educators and stakeholders to effectively plan, implement, and use technology by providing resources, professional development, guidance in obtaining funding, and technical assistance for learning, teaching, and leading students to become productive citizens.

LINK TO DIGITAL COPY: <http://www.alsde.edu>, click Sections, click Technology Initiatives, click Publications, click Newsletters. Please make copies for all of your School Technology Coordinators.

Alabama Educational Technology Conference Goes VIRTUAL for 2009

In a word - proration. The Alabama Educational Technology Conference as a brick-and-mortar conference was cancelled this year because of the deepening proration that has occurred this year. The staff of AETC was saddened over the loss of this experience this year.

Two things remain; One, that AETC 2010 is already scheduled for June 8-11. Make your plans and mark your calendars. We will be back!

Two, is the very exciting

birth of the Virtual Alabama Educational Technology Conference (V-AETC). Once faced with cancellation, the AETC staff quickly turned to looking for alternate ways to achieve the goal of AETC; to deliver technology education professional development to educators. It was decided that our best alternative was to make use of 21st Century technology education tools to make the delivery. We have been working on the idea of how best to deliver the virtual conference to our target audience.

Our view of how to do this is still evolving. Currently, we are planning as follows: All sessions will be free. Since we're testing this concept and since times are tough economically for everyone, attendance will be free.

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Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators & Students Statewide- Final 43 Join

Governor Bob Riley and State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton announced on July 8, 2008 that all high schools in Alabama would have ACCESS Distance Learning by the time school begins in August 2009. That

goal is now one step closer to becoming a reality. The ACCESS Distance Learning Initiative team met with the final 43 schools on March 2, 2009. The meeting was quite different from those in the past. With schools in

proration, ACCESS did not want to ask the systems and/or schools to bear any additional travel costs; therefore, the meeting was

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Madison City Schools Chosen for National School Board Technology and Learning Site Visit



On March 25-27 Madison City Schools will be showcasing their solutions for handling rapid population growth, providing rich content through distance learning courses, enhancing classroom instruction through technology, and last but not least, providing teachers and students with anywhere, anytime access to web-based network resources. National School Board members will visit with Madison City School Board members and their superintendent to learn about Madison

City Schools' model programs and how Madison City has become one of the highest performing public school systems in Alabama. Beginning on Wednesday, March 25, national superintendents will arrive in Madison to be welcomed by Madison City School officials at the Welcome Reception held at the Madison Holiday Inn. On Thursday, March 26, conference attendees will make visits to Bob Jones High School, Heritage Elementary School, Liberty Middle School, The Hudson-Alpha Institute, and the NASA Teacher Resource Center. To complete the special site visit, on Friday, March



27, National School Board members will visit Columbia Elementary School, Discovery Middle School, and the Madison City Board of Education to learn about the ACCESS Distance Learning Program as well as, mingle with local school board members. The finale will include a tour of the Redstone Arsenal to participate in flight simulators and other virtual trainers.

Registrations are welcome! Join them! Go to <http://nsba.org>

Lure of the Labyrinth—Pre-Algebra Game of Puzzles



In the words of its producers, Lure of the Labyrinth is a digital game for middle-school pre-algebra students. It includes a wealth of intriguing math-based puzzles wrapped into an exciting narrative game in which students work to find their lost pet and save the world

from monsters! Linked to both national and state mathematics standards, the game gives students a chance to actually think like mathematicians.

In the past, math games involved solving math problems and then getting to do something fun, such as compete in an auto race. They were essentially math tests with short breaks for fun.

Lure of the Labyrinth isn't that kind of

game. The math is one of the most fun parts of the game. It is embedded in a strong story line that engages students in an eerie world where monsters want world domination at any cost.

The only way students can prevent that from happening is by solving the puzzles.

And the only way that students can solve the puzzles is by using their logic and understanding of the ways numbers work together. <http://www.educationarcade.org/labyrinth>

Lori Newton Joins Technology Initiatives

Lori joined Technology Initiatives on January 1, 2009. She comes to us after eight years at the Alabama Department of Education, Special Education Services, where for five of those years she served as the department liaison to Software Technology, Inc. for the development and implementation of SETSWeb. In Technology Initiatives Lori will be working with STI's Professional Development Program and will serve as the contact for Region A.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Pathology from Auburn University and her Master of Arts degree in Speech Pathology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She also completed post-graduate work at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

In her spare time she likes to attend Alabama football games, ride horses, cook, knit and play with her three year old Newfoundland.



Trussville City School System's Take on Data Security

In an article dated February 2007, Trussville City School System's technology department has been recognized by *T.H.E. Journal* for their innovative and yet safe network management system. The article written by John K. Waters titled Data Security: Locked Down, Not Out, stresses that school systems do not have to completely close their networks to all traffic to be safe.

As school systems move to update their curriculums to the 2008 Technology Education Course of Study, the issue of being able to access resources such as



Web 2.0 websites and multimedia content laden sites becomes a critical issue. Teachers and students will need access to these resources as a way of

preparing students for 21st Century skills. System administrators who are always focused on keeping their networks safe will need to have the additional focus of allowing access to more and more resources. Network administrators will be faced with the task of balancing security and accessibility. Shawn Nutting, Technology Coordinator for Trussville City Schools, offers one way to balance these two elements of computing. The complete article may be accessed from the following link: <http://www.thejournal.com/articles/20160>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Education Unveils New Do-It-Yourself Podcast Activity

NASA Education is excited to introduce the Do-It-Yourself Podcast activity in the For Educators section of NASA.gov. Students can preview and download audio and video clips of astronauts performing work in space and on the ground. They can then use these clips to build their own podcast or similar audio/video project.

Learning modules on the DIY Podcast page will be categorized by topic to assist students with creating projects about a subject of interest. Each subject module includes video and audio clips, images, helpful information and links to related resources. A variety of audio and video clips will be provided to enhance flexibility and creativity.

Students can create video or audio projects using free or inexpensive software on Windows or Macintosh computers.

Educators and their students are encouraged to distribute their NASA projects through podcasts, social networks, Web sites, CDs, DVDs or other channels that they may choose.

The Do-It-Yourself Podcast Blog will keep users posted on the latest updates. Tips and suggestions for incorporating the DIY Podcast into the classroom and updates on when new topic modules are available will be posted regularly. Use the Comments feature of the blog to share ideas and experiences with other teachers and students.

To learn more and to start making podcasts, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/diypodcast/index.html>.

For answers to questions about this activity, please contact Deana Nunley at Deana.Nunley@nasa.gov.

The Do-It-Yourself Podcast Blog will keep users posted on the latest updates. Tips and suggestions for incorporating the DIY Podcast into the classroom...

The Alabama Educational Technology Conference Blog

In line with our desire to make the Alabama Educational Technology Conference the best that it can be, we have established a blog. Its purpose is two-fold; to keep you updated on the planning of AETC, and to solicit the great ideas that you have concerning the conference. This blog, titled *The AETC Blog* has a link located on the AETC home page (<http://ti.alsde.edu/aetc/>).

Additionally, you may wish to bookmark it directly. That link is as follows: <http://aetcblog.wordpress.com/>. We look at this as one other method to enable fans of AETC to share ways to improve the conference that we've enjoyed over the years. Please help make it the best it can be by sharing your thoughts and keeping informed about our plans by participating in the blog.

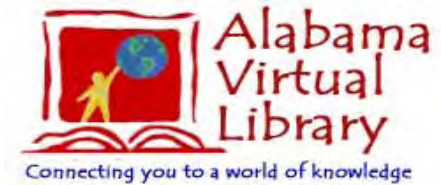


Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) "BACK TO SCHOOL QUIZ" Winners

Schools across the state were given the opportunity to take a "Back to School Quiz" co-sponsored by the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) Council and the Alabama Center for the Book. This contest was an attempt to get students

excited about a fresh new school year, and also for them to explore the many avenues of resources available for FREE through the Alabama Virtual Library. The students were required to log on to AVL and answer questions online using the databases provided. Each school that participated had a chance to win one of twenty-five prizes ranging from online subscriptions to databases to books for their school library. Two schools are spotlighted on this page receiving their prizes.

Remember that it is not too late to start thinking about the 2009 contest. And above all, it is NEVER too late to start using the AVL. If you are not sure how to get signed up for the AVL, contact Ginger Eastman at geastman@alsde.edu or Gina Sullivan at avlhelpdesk@asc.edu and they will help you with any questions and/or concerns you may have.



Cynthia Ferguson (Assistant Principal), Alison Blakeney (Media Supervisor, Montgomery County Schools), Terry Atchison (ALSDE), Ginger Eastman (ALSDE), Carol Walters (Brewbaker Technical Magnet High School)



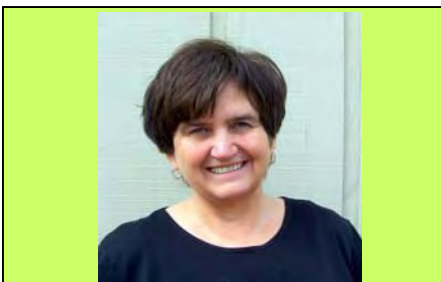
Ginger Eastman (ALSDE), Terry Atchison, (ALSDE), Alison Blakeney (Media Supervisor, Montgomery County Schools), and seated, Barbara Bowling (Booker T. Washington Magnet High School).

LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

This year has been one of amazing accomplishments for library media specialists in Alabama. Several have been recognized for contributions to their school library media programs.

forming Arts. Foley Middle School, the only school in Alabama to participate, was chosen for this prestigious award because of the application written by Library Media Specialist Sue Norman. An interactive media bus will visit Foley to allow students to tell the story of arts in their community. To read more about this event, go to: <http://www.artsedge.org/onlocation/>

In October 2008, Gay Lynn, Library Media Specialist at Jackson High School, received the Laura Bush Foundation- Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative Grant. Jackson High School was one of twenty-two schools chosen from Alabama and Louisiana to receive this grant. More information may be found at www.laurabushfoundation.com/index.html.



Sue Norman, Library Media Specialist Innovative Arts Education: On Location: Spotlight On Your Community Foley Middle School Foley, Alabama

Foley Middle School was chosen as one of 10 schools across the nation to participate in a program sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Per-



Gay Lynn, Library Media Specialist The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Grant, Jackson High School, Jackson, Alabama.



ACCESS Gains National Spotlight with FOX News

National FOX News correspondent Shepard Smith put Alabama in the national spotlight January 23, 2009, when *The FOX Report* producers covered the Alabama Connecting Classrooms Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS) program.

FOX News correspondents called Alabama a "trailblazer in the future of distance learning" and sent a news crew to Tarrant High School (Tarrant City

School System) and Fairfield High School (Fairfield City School System) to see first-hand how ACCESS Distance Learning is broadening the horizons for Alabama students across the state. State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton said, "The national story sheds light on what many in the educational arena already know - Alabama is now on the cutting edge of instructive technology."

provide virtual instruction regardless of how rural the school system might be. The Internet is the great 'equalizer' in this regard, as it gives students from all different walks of life an even playing field on which to learn, grow, and discover."

The FOX News segment, that aired nationwide, touted Alabama's use of technology as an efficient means to deliver quality instruction in lean fiscal times. To view the segment in its entirety please log on to: <http://www.foxnews.com/foxreport/>



"ACCESS Distance Learning is revolutionizing education in Alabama. It provides students with opportunities that never existed before and totally removes the barriers of walls and geography that limited students' exposure in the past." Morton said. "By this fall, every high school in Alabama will be equipped with the ability to



Milestone—Final 43 Join ACCESS (Continued from Page 1)

held via webinar. Actually, two meetings were held: one in the morning and one in the afternoon, giving attendees a choice of a time that worked best for them. ACCESS Distance Learning is showing that **21st Century learning calls for 21st Century solutions.** A webinar is one of the resources that ACCESS uses to help transition from institution or instructor-centric learning to personalized, active learning. ACCESS uses webinars to meet the needs of our distance learners, facilitate formal and informal learning, provide critical professional development, and create a culture of collaboration as evidenced by our Expansion IV-Wave III meeting webinar.

Governor Riley's statement "No other state in America has videoconferencing and web-based learning in all its high schools, yet Alabama will. This is an investment not only in technology; this is an investment in our children," turns out to be about more than just students. All across the state, systems and schools are meeting utilizing the ACCESS model of using 21st Century tools. Several

Alabama Department of Education sections have met with LEAs using either ACCESS interactive videoconferencing or webinar. This third and final wave of 43 schools will use ACCESS (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide) online and interactive videoconferencing technology to link classrooms and offer coursework, including Advanced Placement and languages, to students in schools where those courses may not be available. ACCESS allows students from any part of the state to learn in a virtual classroom environment.

"The support of Governor Riley, his administration, and the Legislature are absolutely vital to the educational goals we have set forth for this state. The completion of ACCESS labs throughout the state means high school students in Alabama will have opportunities not imaginable 10 years ago," said Dr. Morton. "They are no longer deprived of certain coursework because they happen to live in a rural area or because there are not enough students in a particular

school to make up a class."

These 43 schools in Wave III will complete the list of 371 total high schools (100% of schools serving grades 10, 11, and 12) in Alabama. Currently in Alabama, 265 schools already have full ACCESS grants or IVC labs paid for by other funds. All 371 high schools will start school in August 2009 with the most up-to-date, technology-rich, learning capabilities available anywhere. In addition to having ACCESS labs, the Alabama Supercomputer Authority, with funding from ACCESS, is providing every high school with a minimum of 10Mb of bandwidth to ensure that, no matter where any Alabama school is located, Internet connectivity will not be a barrier.

ACCESS Distance Learning is showing that 21st Century learning calls for 21st Century solutions.

AETC Virtual Hands-On Workshops

The best of both worlds: Utilize the benefits of 21st Century technology while maintaining face-to-face activities and interactions. We are looking for presentations that lend themselves to a semi-virtual format. Small groups will meet at a hands-on workshop computer lab in geographic locations across the state to participate in activities shared via videoconference and/or real time virtual labs.

Enhanced videoconference locations will include videoconference send/receive capabilities and computers with Internet access. A facilitator will be located at each of the remote receiving locations to assist participants with the implementation of your instructions and any technical issues. Each participant will have a computer for use at the

sites. As a prospective presenter for a hands-on workshop, it will be necessary to plan for participants in at least five remote locations across the state. All workshop materials, handouts, and software must be provided in a digital format prior to the workshop date to ensure active participation at the remote sites.

Real-Time Virtual Labs will include interactive presentations and remote access to a virtual lab to perform hands-on activities. Each participant will have access to a virtual computer preloaded with the software and workshop materials.

This is going to be a unique and rewarding experience for participants and presenters alike. There will be interaction and collaboration in small

groups fostered by effective use of technology tools.

Virtual Hands-on Workshops



AETC Comes In Second—(Second Life To Be Used In V-AETC)

Imagine attending an AETC session where you can wear whatever you choose, have the color and style of hair you want, and be the exact size you want to be. Imagine a place where gravity is just an option and a place where your surroundings are limited only by your creativity. This place is Second Life.

Second Life, which opened to the public in 2003, is an online 3-D virtual world. It has millions of participants, called residents, spanning the world. Different areas of Second Life are known as islands. Visitors navigate the three-dimensional world using avatars, animated representations of themselves. The University of Alabama is one of over 100 universities that are part of this virtual world and are holding regular classes and meetings here.

We are pleased to announce that as part of our V-AETC this year, The University of Alabama has been generous enough to allow us to use their campus on Second Life to hold several of our sessions. The

University has constructed an exact replica of Graves Hall and Carmichael Hall along with additional classrooms. We will be holding several sessions of V-AETC in these classrooms. In order to participate in a session, you will need to register on STIPD. Class size will be limited. You will also need to download Second Life to your computer and create an avatar prior to joining the session.

Second Life is a free download for your computer; however, you will need to be running XP or Vista and have a fast Internet connection. To download Second Life and find other pertinent information, go to <http://secondlife.com>. You can find additional information at <http://www.slideshare.net/jokay/second-life-for-sae>. Put your imagination to work and design a creative avatar that will impress us all. We look forward to seeing you "in world" at V-AETC.

The University of Alabama is one of over 100 universities that are part of this virtual world and are holding regular classes and meetings here.

AVATARS Seen Below



Governor Uses ACCESS to Preview State-of-the-State Address to Students



Governor Bob Riley gave a preview of his State-of-the-State address to an audience of high school seniors from 13 schools across the state thanks to the ACCESS Distance Learning program. The Governor's preview was delivered on Monday, February 2 at 10 a.m. at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The students also had an opportunity to ask the Governor questions.

Students from across the state attended the Governor's address: Billingsley School - Autauga County Schools, Bob Jones High School - Madison City Schools, Dallas County High School - Dallas County Schools, Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) - Montgomery County Schools. Nine other schools participated from their campuses via Interactive VideoConferencing (IVC) Charles Henderson High School - Troy City Schools, Haleyville High School - Haleyville City Schools, Hillcrest High School - Tuscaloosa County Schools, Holtville High School - Elmore County Schools, Leflore Academy - Mobile County Schools, Spring Garden High School - Cherokee County Schools, Susan Moore High School - Blount

County Schools, Vestavia Hills High School - Vestavia City Schools, Zion Chapel High School - Coffee County Schools.

"This is another example of the learning opportunities our students now have because of ACCESS," Governor Riley said. "It's a 21st Century approach to learning that helps level the playing field when it comes to educational opportunities, especially for students who attend rural schools."

ACCESS, which stands for Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators and Students Statewide, was first proposed by Governor Riley in 2005. Every high school in the state will have ACCESS by the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, which is one year ahead of schedule. The initiative uses online and interactive videoconferencing technology to link classrooms and offer coursework, including Advanced Placement classes and foreign languages, to students in schools where those courses may not be available. With ACCESS, students from any part of the state can learn in a virtual classroom environment.

State Archives Director Dr. Ed Bridges said that the high school senior seminar

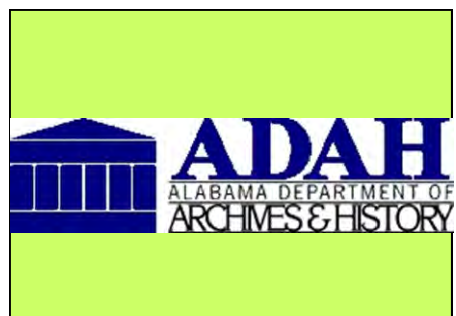
comes at a critical time. "Given the problems faced by our state and nation, it is vital that young people become aware of those issues and engage the debates over a proper response."

"Alabama now has an infrastructure in place to support distance learning. We want to use this network to make Alabama history more accessible to students in every part of the state," Dr. Bridges said.

"The senior seminar demonstrates the potential for distance learning technology to bring a variety of resources into Alabama classrooms," said Martha Donaldson, ACCESS administrator. "A good delivery system, matched with the kind of innovative thinking behind this program, will open doors for students and provide them with opportunities that would not otherwise be available."

Other partners in the project include the Encyclopedia of Alabama, which provided background materials for students, and Alabama Public Television, which recorded the event for a later broadcast.

You can view this event at (<http://www.archives.alabama.gov/video/stateofthestate.html>).



E-Learning Enters Fourth Year Showing Great Progress



<http://elearning.alsde.edu>



Entering the middle of Year 4 of the 5-year Ready to Teach grant, eLearning for Educators-Alabama has:

- Developed 28 courses
 - Six in partnership with AMSTI-Math
 - Eight in partnership with AMSTI-Science
 - Five in partnership with ARI
 - Three in partnership with Technology Initiatives
- Trained 89 course facilitators
- Delivered 164 courses to 2,484 enrolled teachers

- Awarded 42,060 professional development hours to 1,402 graduates
- Enrolled 714 teachers in 46 courses being delivered during the current Spring 2009 Semester (Feb 11-Mar 31)

To maintain diversity in the courses offered in each of our three yearly semesters, eLearning schedules:

- Five courses in 21st Century Classroom topics
- Three math courses (one each for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 teachers)

- Three science courses (one each for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 teachers)
- Two reading courses (one for K-2 and one for 4-12 teachers)
- One history course for K-12 teachers
- One writing course for K-12 teachers
- One technology course for administrators

eLearning also provides customized courses requested by LEAs or school principals.

eSchool News.TV Solicit Student Videos



Students may earn valuable video-production experiences and a shot at national recognition by participation in the new [Student Video Network](#). This network founded by eSchool News has set its goal to give students in North America the experience of being real news anchors and reporters. Students are encouraged to upload video samples of how they would handle news coverage of breaking news stories. Interested

students and teachers should visit the homepage of the Student Video Network and check out two or three of the stories from the "Top News" section of the page.

Each quarter's winners could be invited to a major ed-tech event such as the



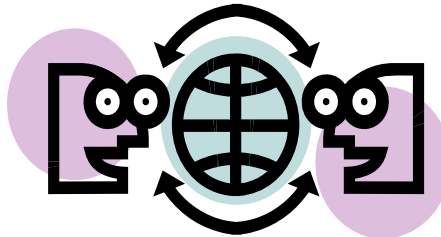
annual National Education Computing Conference for an awards ceremony. During this ceremony, under this scenario, one of the four schools would be named "SVN News Team of the Year."

V-AETC, The Virtual Solution (continued from Page 1)

Attendees will need to register through Software Technologies Incorporated's Professional Development module (STI-PD). This will allow us to issue professional development and will give us some quality controls over the size of each session.

The goal is to offer virtually all of what has been AETC in the past. That is, we will have concurrent sessions based around the one-hour time frame. There will be hands-on workshops, and we're hoping to include exhibitor input. To a great degree, as always, the sessions offered will depend on our local experts being willing to offer sessions. We are creating new proposal forms for both kinds of sessions and will include this on our web site (<http://ti.alsde.edu/>

[aetc/](http://ti.alsde.edu/)). Volunteers, just as in our standard conference, again will determine how successful we will be. In conclusion, I believe that this new V-AETC can become an important part of our conference. We will be using a



variety of methods to deliver the content including webinars, audio and video podcasts, interactive videoconferencing, and Second Life. We are going to experiment with many

things to see how best to deliver the professional development. When we return to AETC in 2010, you will see a virtual strand that will be added to the traditional conference. In my estimation, we cannot replace the wonderful experience that has been the Alabama Educational Technology Conference with virtual presentations, but we can certainly enhance and make it better by giving birth to this new strand. Please help us make it better. For details contact Don Marchant (jmarchant@alsde.edu), Donna Fuller (dfuller@alsde.edu) or Cheri Hayes (chayes@alsde.edu). Additionally, we are establishing a blog on our web site for communications purposes. (See The AETC Blog article in this newsletter.)

Are you enhancing education by using technology in your daily curriculum?

Since the passage of the No Child Left Behind legislation, technology funds are available through the Federal Grants of Title II, Part D as Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT or E2T2).

The EETT grants provide financial assistance to states and LEAs to

- 1.) Improve students' academic achievement through the use of technology in schools;
- 2.) Assist all students in becoming technologically literate by the end of eighth grade; and
- 3.) Encourage the effective integration of technology with teacher training and

curriculum development to establish successful research-based instructional methods.

States must distribute a percentage of the funds by formula to eligible local educational agencies and the other remaining funds competitively to eligible local entities.

The primary goal of the EETT program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary

schools. It is also designed to assist every student—regardless of race, ethnicity, income, geographical location, or disability in becoming technologically literate by the end of the eighth grade, and to encourage the effective integration of technology resources and systems with professional development and curriculum development to promote research-based instructional methods that can be widely replicated.

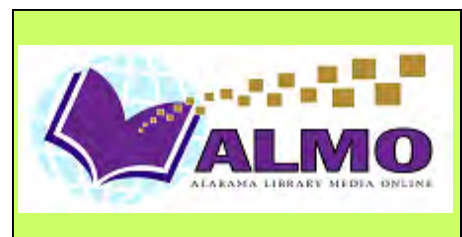


2009 VIRTUAL LIBRARY MEDIA SYMPOSIUM

Yes, a virtual symposium is in construction! The 2nd Annual Library Media Symposium held in conjunction with the Virtual Alabama Educational Technology Conference (V-AETC) will be a virtual experience this year. Mark your calendars to participate in the symposium sessions on Tuesday, June 9, 2009. Elluminate will be the presentation form for our virtual symposium.

There will be many outstanding presentations available for library media specialists. Some of the topics addressed will include: technology, organizing your LMC, automation, Google, and oral history. If you have suggestions about how we can make this virtual symposium the very best it can be, please contact: Ginger Eastman, geastman@alsde.edu. Look for

additional information to be coming your way soon.



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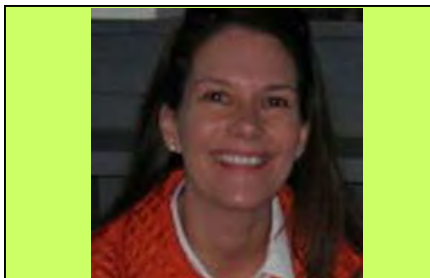
<http://ti.alsde.edu/>



Virtual AETC Coming

—June 8-12, 2009

LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT! - (continued from Page 4)



Jennifer Dempsey, Library Media Specialist
The Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times "I Love My Librarian Award Winner"
Wrights Mill Road Elementary School
Auburn, Alabama

Jennifer Dempsey was one of ten library media specialists recognized for service to their communities, schools and campuses as a winner of the I Love My Librarian Award. Jennifer received \$5,000 and was honored at an awards ceremony hosted by the New York Times

at TheTimeCenter on December 9, 2008. More information may be found at www.ilovelibraries.org.



Ann Marie Pipkin, Library Media Specialist
Author, Library Media Connection
Alabama School of Fine Arts
Birmingham, Alabama

Ann Marie Pipkin is a contributing author for Library Media Connection. Her article, "Working with Parents to Achieve National Board Certification,"

can be found in the May/June 09 issue. Quote - "I hope that it proves helpful to some of you and possibly an inspiration for others." For more information about this publication, go to www.linworth.com/lmc.

