



# ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

NOV/DEC 2006



TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING THE WORLD...

## DIVE IN!

By *Cameron McKinley*  
2006-07 Alabama Teacher of the Year

A group of first-grade students busily record their latest stories using tablet computers that recognize handwriting; third-grade students recreate their learning through online digital scrapbooks that allow comments from others; and high school math students recap lessons learned on a blog for fellow students. Middle school students record visual videos called mathcasts to share problem-solving strategies online; fifth graders create an online virtual tour on the web; and online webcasts provide 24/7 learning for anyone willing to watch and listen! Yes, the world we live in is an exciting place.

My fifth graders created Google Earth tours when studying ecosystems last spring. To get ready for the project, I watched webcasts to learn about Google Earth and learned how to add video and picture overlays to the Google Earth program and turn

them into an online tour students can share with others. This just-in-time training is the wave of the future.

As Thomas Friedman, author of "The World is Flat," mentions in many of his articles, our children need to be able to learn how to learn! There are so many opportunities for learning available today. We need to guide students to take advantage of what is available and help them to evaluate what they are finding. If students do not have access to technology-rich learning experiences that help them with problem solving, collaboration, and communication, they will not be prepared for the world they will face. We are preparing students for jobs that do not yet even exist.

There are those who ask me, "What about safety?" I say, "Of course, we need to be concerned." However, if we do not give students a chance to navigate through the technology tools with us as a guide, how will they manage when they are on their own? I like to use an example

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## ACCESS CELEBRATES ONE YEAR

As 24 pilot high schools across the state celebrate their first year of Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS) to technology, now even more students can receive the benefits of the ACCESS Distance Learning Initiative online. Originally 24 schools participated in the pilot, and in its first year a total of 94 schools are linked to the distance learning program.

"The pilot year of ACCESS has exceeded our expectations. Early evaluations indicate the program has been successful, and now online learning is available to all high school students," said Technology Initiatives Director **DR. MELINDA MADDOX**.

In November 2005, **GOV. BOB RILEY**, along with the Alabama Department of Education, launched ACCESS Distance Learning as a new method of delivering high-quality courses statewide, which included areas where they might not have been available. Now, a total of 43 courses are offered via ACCESS.

January enrollment for ACCESS Distance Learning is now available. A new toll-free phone number for ACCESS Distance Learning has also been added, 1-866-623-7921. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Good News ~ 8-10 **CONTINUED ONLINE:** Teacher of the Month • Visit [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu)

# TOP TEN IDEAS

## TO DIVE DEEPER INTO TECHNOLOGY AND MODEL LIFELONG LEARNING

Use these sites and ideas for exploration, communication, evaluation, and skill building. Please make sure to be with your students when they are using the Internet. Always check sites for appropriateness before using with students.

### 1. Go online for math.

<http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/>  
<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>

### 2. Go online for language arts.

<http://www.quia.com/pages/readingresources.html>  
<http://www.storylineonline.net/>  
[http://www.readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/index.asp](http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp)

### 3. Go online to communicate through wikis, podcasts, and photo sharing.

<http://www6.miami.edu/bb/iaac/LnL200701/wikiway/>  
<http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K>  
<http://www.gcast.com/u/camruns/students>

#### Share learning through photos!

<http://www.pickle.com>  
<http://www.bubbleshare.com>

### 4. Use Google Earth.

<http://earth.google.com/>  
<https://discoveryed.webex.com/discoveryed/k2/tool/record/recordinginfo.php?RecordID=10111647>  
(Requires a password: Discovery)

### 5. Scrapblog the past, present, or future.

<http://camruns.scrapblog.com/school>

### 6. Go digital with United Streaming digital content.

<http://www.unitedstreaming.com>

### 7. Go online for science.

<http://www.fossweb.com/index.php>  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index_flash.shtml)  
<http://www.open2.net/science/microscope/>

### 8. Get students problem solving with free software.

<http://sketchup.google.com/>  
<http://web.telia.com/~u16122508/proglego.htm>  
<http://www.cameronmckinley.com/free.htm>

### 9. Learn evaluation skills and Internet safety.

[http://www.ncwiseowl.org/kscope/Hovercraft/InfoSkills/KnowFlow/Evaluation/website\\_eval.htm](http://www.ncwiseowl.org/kscope/Hovercraft/InfoSkills/KnowFlow/Evaluation/website_eval.htm)  
<http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/>  
<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/searching/fournets.htm>  
<http://www.netsmartz.org/educators.htm>

### 10. Explore!

<http://www.quia.com/pages/labs.html>  
(click on your grade level)



*(continued from front)*

of going to the park. Our children could meet a stranger in the park. Our children could fall off a bike and get injured in the park. Does that mean we don't go to the park? Of course not! We have our kids strap on helmets, we go over the safety rules, and we go with them to enjoy the park. It is the same with technology. We must make the journey with our students, teach them the rules and provide safety nets as necessary, while still letting them experience the power of information available to them and giving them the opportunity to share their learning with the world.

I can't help but get excited when I use the many tools available to me. If you want students to be lifelong learners, you have to model it for them! I have to admit, I love surfing the Web for new ideas to motivate and empower my students. I recently

found ways to let students and teachers podcast and post online by simply calling a number on the telephone. We have high school students and parent volunteers record books for our English as a Second Language students using this service. We can also have students share their learning by recording it. To hear some young students counting and skip counting, visit [www.gcast.com/u/camruns/students](http://www.gcast.com/u/camruns/students). They could just as easily share poems, stories, and more. There are so many free and easy ways to find and share information today. If you are ready to dive in, check out my top ten ideas (left) for diving deeper into technology and modeling lifelong learning for your students.

Will it be easy? Not always. But with a positive attitude, a curious mind, and some young helpers around ...you should make the journey just fine! 🍏



#### *About the author ...*

CAMERON SHARBEL MCKINLEY is the 2006-2007 Alabama Teacher of the Year and Elementary Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Riverchase Elementary School in the Hoover City School System. Mrs. McKinley believes that technology allows teachers to reach students in ways that were not possible in the past. By modeling successful use and allowing students to experience technological successes, teachers can equip students with the skills they need to be successful in a closely connected world.

For more ideas on how technology can help you meet the needs of your diverse learners, [CLICK HERE](#).

# ALABAMA HONORS TWO MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD WINNERS

**T**wo unsuspecting Alabama educators were honored for their exceptional work at surprise presentations recently.

**DR. SHANNON BRANDT**, a fourth-grade teacher at Wrights Mill Road Elementary School in Auburn, AL, and **LYNN MCCAIN**, a fifth-grade science teacher at J. E. Turner Elementary School in Wilmer, AL (Mobile County), have received what is considered by many to be the “Oscars of Teaching.” **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** presented Brandt and McCain with the **MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD**. At mock assemblies attended by numerous local dignitaries, Morton explained that while actors receive Oscars and musicians receive Grammys, the Milken Family Foundation believes a nationally recognized award should also be presented to educators who go above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to teaching America’s children.

Morton said words cannot express the gratitude he has for the generosity of the Milken Family Foundation; it’s second only to the gratitude he has for the educators who work so tirelessly to teach the children of Alabama.

In Auburn, Morton said Dr. Brandt’s commitment to excellence in education is evident by her professional accomplishments as well as the respect and admiration she receives from colleagues and students.

As an emotional Brandt accepted her award, she thanked her colleagues at a school that has impacted Brandt professionally as well as personally. As a student teacher at Wrights Mill Road Elementary, Brandt interned, met her future husband Chris, and now their children attend Wrights Mill Road.

In Wilmer, Morton said McCain demonstrates how to be a strong and effective teacher in the classroom. He said this, combined with her passion for making a difference in the lives of children, makes her a truly exceptional educator.



*A completely surprised Dr. Shannon Brandt reacts as she learns she has won.*



*Lynn McCain is caught completely off-guard as her name is announced.*

Caught completely off-guard, McCain thanked her fellow educators, as her fifth-grade class celebrated and cheered her on.

Created by Milken Family Foundation Chairman and Co-Founder Lowell Milken, the Milken National Educator Award is considered one of the highest educational accolades in the nation. In addition to receiving such a coveted award – along with an unrestricted \$25,000 check – recipients join an elite, nationally recognized group of Milken Educators.

To honor the important roles talented teachers play in improving student achievement, the Milken Family Foundation is going coast-to-coast on its 20th Anniversary Awards Tour to reward the newest Milken National Educator Award recipients with \$25,000 cash prizes. Up to 100 outstanding elementary educators will learn the news of their Awards - which can be used any way they choose - during surprise schoolwide assemblies packed with proud students, colleagues, dignitaries, and media.

“Good teachers are the linchpin in our education system, playing a critical role in propelling student learning,” said Milken. “Every child deserves to be in a classroom with a teacher who inspires, illustrates, and advances excellence. It’s imperative that as a nation we recognize the importance of outstanding teachers and encourage young, talented people to choose teaching as a career.”

Active in 48 states and the District of Columbia, the Milken Educator Awards have grown to become the nation’s largest teacher recognition program. Since 1987, over \$56 million has been awarded to more than 2,200 educators. New recipients join the Milken Educator Network, a rich resource of educators and other leaders accessible to fellow teachers, legislators, school boards, and others who are shaping the future of education.

For more information about the Milken Educator Awards and other events held throughout the United States, please contact the Milken Family Foundation at (310) 570-4775 or [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏

# AMSTI ALABAMA MATH, SCIENCE, & TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE OPENS NEW SITE AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Schools in East Alabama have joined the growing number of schools across the state that benefit from the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI). **SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**, along with **AUBURN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ED RICHARDSON**, announced the new state appropriation of \$831,000 to fund the expansion of AMSTI serving eligible

of Education's initiative designed to improve mathematics and science teaching and learning statewide. **GOV. BOB RILEY** and the Alabama Legislature provided AMSTI funding of \$15 million in 2006 and \$22 million for fiscal year 2007.

According to the Institute for Communication and Information Research at The University of Alabama, schools served by AMSTI have shown significant improvements in student achievement measured by the Stanford Achievement Test, the Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test, and the Alabama High School Graduation Exam.

"Auburn University welcomes the opportunity to participate in the AMSTI program," said Dr. Richardson. "I commend Dr. Morton and the state school board for expanding this research-based program that has shown measurable results. Improved skills in mathematics, science, and technology are critical to Alabama's economic growth and will lead to continued improvements in college and university academic programs."

K-12 public school teachers and administrators who participate in AMSTI attend intensive training sessions. AMSTI provides three services: professional development, equipment and materials, and on-site support. Schools become official AMSTI schools by enrolling all of their math and science teachers and administrators in two-week Summer Institutes for two summers. At the Summer Institutes, teachers receive subject-specific professional development that is applicable to their classroom. Instruction is provided at the Summer Institutes by "master" teachers who have been certified as AMSTI trainers after successfully completing AMSTI trainer workshops.

AMSTI sites provide AMSTI schoolteachers with essentially all of the



*Alabama Superintendent of Education Joe Morton (c) and Auburn University President Ed Richardson (l) observe student experiments at the newly established AMSTI site at Auburn University.*

schools in East Alabama through the newly established site at Auburn University.

"Students retain more knowledge when they are involved in hands-on learning experiences," said Dr. Morton. "The addition of this AMSTI site at Auburn University will engage more students with this valuable and unique program that helps develop critical thinking skills."

AMSTI is the Alabama Department

equipment, supplies, and resources needed to effectively engage students with hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Examples of equipment include lab ware, chemicals, global positioning devices, and plants with growth containers. The resources arrive packaged in “kits” ready for immediate use.

Each kit is customized for the specific activities that will be taught. Once students complete the activities from a kit, it is returned to a materials center where it is refurbished to “like new” condition. Then, another kit targeting the next classroom activity is delivered to the teacher and the newly refurbished kit is sent to another teacher.

For more information on AMSTI, contact Alabama Department of Education AMSTI State Coordinator Steve Ricks at 334-353-9151, or e-mail [sricks@alsde.edu](mailto:sricks@alsde.edu), or [CLICK HERE](#).

Auburn University joins eight other AMSTI sites including:

- Jacksonville State University
- The University of Alabama and the University of West Alabama
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- University of North Alabama
- University of Montevallo
- University of South Alabama
- Troy University
- Wallace Community College-Selma and Alabama State University

Currently, more than 111,000 students and approximately 200 public schools are served by AMSTI statewide. The Auburn University site will potentially serve an additional 13 schools in East Alabama. 🍏

## AMSTI AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY WILL SERVE THE FOLLOWING EAST ALABAMA SCHOOL SYSTEMS:

ALEXANDER CITY  
AUBURN CITY  
CHAMBERS COUNTY  
ELMORE COUNTY  
LANETT CITY  
LEE COUNTY  
MACON COUNTY  
OPELIKA CITY  
RUSSELL COUNTY  
TALLAPOOSA COUNTY  
TALLASSEE CITY

## SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS HAVE NEW RESOURCE FOR INQUIRING MINDS WITH “ASK THE EXPERT” PROGRAM



Is this leaf poison? What kind of fish are those? Children are inquisitive by nature. Now, the Alabama Department of Education, the Alabama Museum of Natural History, and the Discovering Alabama television series on Alabama Public Television are offering another source for students, teachers, and parents alike to access when faced with the age-old question, “what is that?”

“Ask the Expert” is an exciting new on-line database on the [Discovering Alabama Web site](#), or [CLICK HERE](#), which helps students, educators, and parents explore nature with expert advice in subjects such as biology, zoology, entomology, and geology. Curious individuals can submit questions about plants, animals, rocks, insects, streams, aquatic life, or any other form of nature and get answers from experts in the field.

DOUG PHILLIPS, host and producer of the series *Discovering Alabama*, said Alabama is one of the most naturally diverse states in the nation, and that makes Alabama a wonderful outside laboratory for learning. BOB RITCHEY, Supervisor of Community Education with the Alabama Department of Education, said this program allows all students to make a connection with nature, modern technology, and the classroom.

STEVE RICKS, Director of the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) said *Ask the Expert* is yet another way for people to learn about their natural surroundings.

“I would encourage teachers, students, and adults to take full advantage of this easy-to-use and helpful program,” Ricks said. “Ask the Expert is an excellent hands-on experience that’s fun, interactive, and educational.” 🍏



## ALABAMA UNIVERSITIES UNITE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

*Classrooms specifically set aside for special education students are being replaced with an inclusive classroom model that brings all students together allowing special education students to learn alongside their peers.*

Universities across the state of Alabama are leading by unprecedented example by joining together to share knowledge, skills, ideas, and curriculum to combat the issue of effective teaching for special education students.

As a requirement of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, all students must have access to participate in the general education curriculum with most other students. Classrooms specifically set aside for special education students are being replaced with an inclusive classroom model that brings all students together allowing special education students to learn alongside their peers. To be certain the obvious problem of making sure both traditional and special education students are taught to their fullest potential, the teaching model of collaborative instruction – having both a traditional curriculum teacher and a special education teacher work in

tandem to serve the entire class – is being incorporated in many schools.

To make sure college students who are aspiring teachers are fully prepared for the challenge of teaching in a cooperative, co-teacher environment, Alabama's institutions of higher learning are uniting to create a seamless course of study for students preparing to become educators. A central focus of this comprehensive preparation program will be the collaborative, co-teaching model, which provides support to students with disabilities in general education classrooms.

At a collaborative task force meeting held recently, representatives from 12 universities across Alabama convened to share their progress in the effort to implement this shared teaching method. These universities received Alabama State Improvement Grants, funds from the Alabama Department of Education Special Education Services, to develop

plans for a new Secondary Collaborative Education Program. Participating institutions are: Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Athens State University, Auburn University, Auburn University Montgomery, Jacksonville State University, Samford University, The University of Alabama, University of Alabama Huntsville, Troy University, University of North Alabama, and University of South Alabama.

**DR. MABREY WHETSTONE**, director of special education services for the State Department of Education, said this is the first time all of these universities have collectively focused on the subject.

“Twelve of the 16 teacher training programs in Alabama have submitted and are implementing proposals about how they’re going to collaborate with the general education and the special education faculty. This new curriculum will open [student’s] eyes to what classrooms in Alabama now require of teachers,” Whetstone said. “Now, teachers in the secondary program must be able to work with a diverse group of kids, in addition to the traditional students. Now it’s not just an issue of special education – it’s an issue of many kids growing up in very different environments. These teachers will be better prepared. They will understand how to diversify curriculum and meet the needs of all students.”

Whetstone said despite the barrier of limited funds and time, Alabama universities are coming together and working solely because they believe this teaching model will benefit their schools and equip future teachers with the tools to work effectively in changing classroom settings.

**DR. AQUILLA MIMS**, professor of special education at Jacksonville State University, said research shows that if co-teaching/collaboration is done correctly, the test scores of all children will go up and absenteeism goes down. “It’s important that both elements, co-teaching and collaboration, are employed since they need to be administered simultaneously to be effective,” Mims said.

**DR. VICTORIA HUSLEY** of Alabama A&M University said the implementation of co-teaching methodology breaks down barriers of compartmentalization often seen in schools and creates a more holistic approach to education. “I think students will be much better prepared to do the collaborative teaching because it’s a whole different view of how instruction occurs. Educators have a history of being isolationists, ‘I go in my classroom – you go in yours. These are my kids – those are your kids,’” Hulsey said. “We have to realize that we have to work together in a collaborative way to meet the needs of every child.”

Special education professor at Alabama State University, **DR. WILLA BING HARRIS**, said her hope is that students, as they go out into the world and become administrators and counselors, have the ability to convey the concept of inclusion. “We need for educators to have the opportunity to get together more – and not just for standard faculty meetings. There needs to be time for teachers to come together, plan, and talk about either the successes or the challenges they’re having with students. Cooperative or ‘team’ teaching often increases the effectiveness of both teachers,” Harris said.

Whetstone said he expects the collaborative/co-teaching model to be fully implemented throughout Alabama middle and high schools in the near future. 🍏

*Collaborative instruction  
is being incorporated  
in many Alabama schools.*

## THE 12 PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS ARE:

*Alabama A&M University  
Alabama State University  
Athens State University  
Auburn University  
Auburn University Montgomery  
Jacksonville State University  
Samford University  
The University of Alabama  
University of Alabama Huntsville  
Troy University  
University of North Alabama  
University of South Alabama*



# GOOD NEWS IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS

## CREATIVE TICKET SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

This program of the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education (AAAE)

celebrates the extraordinary achievement of students studying the arts in school. It also raises awareness of the arts in schools and communities – emphasizing the lifelong, profound, and universal impact the arts have on our lives, as well as promotes implementation of a rich arts curriculum in schools through the state.

The **Creative Ticket Schools of Excellence Award** provides an important outlet for expanding recognition of the role individual schools play in providing a creative learning environment for outstanding student achievement. It also provides an opportunity to highlight schools that have developed exemplary art education programs.

Award-winning schools will be recognized at a ceremony and have the opportunity for national recognition through the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Creative Ticket – National Schools of Distinction Awards Program.\*



To apply for the 2006-07 Alabama Alliance for Arts Education Creative Ticket Schools of Excellence Award, nominees must fill out an application form. These forms, along with complete details on this exciting award program, are available by contacting the AAAE at 334-269-1435 or by [email](#).

Application forms are also available directly by [CLICKING HERE](#).

The deadline for entries is Friday, March 9, 2007 (postmarked deadline). Don't miss this great opportunity to spotlight your arts education program!



*\*The Alabama Alliance for Arts Education is eligible to nominate up to five schools for this year's Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Creative Ticket – National Schools of Distinction Award.*



ALABAMA ALLIANCE  
FOR ARTS EDUCATION

## BOAZ CITY SCHOOLS WIN \$1 MILLION GRANT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDS  
STATE'S FIRST MIGRANT EDUCATION EVEN START GRANT

The two-year-old Boaz City School System is the first in the state and one of only 10 in the nation to win a 2006 Migrant Education Even Start Grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). The grant amount is \$955,500 over a three-year period.

The Boaz City School System Migrant Education Even Start Grant project is designed in collaboration with Northeast Alabama Adult Education Program and Snead State Community College. The school system will use the grant award to provide family educational activities. Center-based adult education classes will be conducted several evenings a week. Center-based early childhood education will be provided, as well as home-based preschool services. The grant will allow the school system to continue all aspects of the program year round and to offer services such as meals, transportation, field trips, health care, job training/placement, and the opportunity for college scholarships.

The Migrant Education Even Start Grant will complement the young school system's existing grants and programs, including a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, Community Education, Early Literacy Program, Adult Literacy, Collaborative Pre-School, Infancy Literacy Project, as well as after-school and summer programs to meet the needs of students and parents. Boaz City schools will be able to ease the overcrowding in English language proficiency classes, as well as expand adult literacy and GED classes, parent education, early childhood education including children with special needs, and interactive parent and child literacy activities.

"I've worked with Even Start in the past and it is a truly valuable program," said **JEANA ROSS**, the grant writer and Boaz City School System Director of Community Education/Prevention and Support Services. "I've seen the changes it can make in people's lives and the success it brings to families. Our parents want to learn to read and speak English so they can help their children. We are so grateful for this grant money that will do so much to help us meet the needs of the people in our community."

Migrant Education Even Start Grants to support family literacy projects were first awarded in 1989. For more information, [e-mail](#) Mrs. Ross, call 256-593-8180, or visit the USDE Web site.

State Board of Education Member: David F. Beyers, Jr. – District 6  
Boaz City Schools Superintendent: Mr. Leland Dishman





## HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS' CAREER CENTER TO CREATE PROTOTYPE FOR SPACE STATION



**N**ASA and its contractors, **Teledyne Brown Engineering** and **Boeing**, have requested the Huntsville Center for Technology, a part of Huntsville City Schools, to immediately develop a prototype piece of hardware for the International Space

Station. The hardware will be used to train astronauts on how to make a future repair to a space station rack. The piece must be ready for crew training that will support a possible shuttle launch in December. This request has been made to the Huntsville Center for Technology as part of the Space Act Agreement signed between NASA and the Huntsville Center for Technology in 2005.



The center will devote the resources of the CAD Drafting and Precision Machine classes for this project. Other projects will be put on hold in order to concentrate on the development of the prototype piece for the International Space Station. "I believe this is the first time a request like this has been made of a high school and we are very excited about it" says **EDDIE TURNER**, Career Tech Director for the Huntsville Center for Technology.

*State Board of Education Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor - District 8  
Huntsville City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Ann Roy Moore  
Principal: Mr. Eddie Turner*



## NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL AP SCHOLARS AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE

**E**ighteen (18) students at Northridge High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.3 million high school students in 16,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit this recognition.

At Northridge High School, three students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These exceptional students are **SARAH DONLEY, JANICE KIM, and EMILY ROWELL**.

Three students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are **OLEKSANDR PETRENKO, AMY ZHENG, and LISA ZHENG**.

Twelve students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are **AMBER BEG, ENELDA BUTLER, HYOUK SOO KIM, VIRGINIA LEIGH, NATHANIEL MARSH, JENNA MCCREERY, ELLEN MITCHELL, REBECCA NEWMAN, KATHERINE NOBLE, DESIREE PICONE, ALEXANDER SCHMIDT, and MARY FRANCES WEATHERLY**.

*State Board of Education Member: Sandra Ray - District 7  
Tuscaloosa City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Joyce Levey  
Principal: Ms. Jennifer Box*



## MELINDA MADDOX NAMED LEADER OF THE YEAR

**T**he State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) recently honored **DR. MELINDA MADDOX**, Director of Technology Initiatives for the Alabama Department of Education, as one of three outstanding educational leaders for their efforts to ensure students and teachers receive the opportunities they need to be competitive in the world's global marketplace. Her leadership and service to SETDA's Board of Directors has been an inspiration and model to her peers.

*Maddox (left) with Dr. Mary Ann Wolf, Executive Director of SETDA*

# GOOD NEWS IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS



## TUSCALOOSA TEACHER WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

A 22 year science teacher from Echols Middle School in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, has been awarded the honor of the **Alabama Air Force Association's "State Teacher of the Year."** This award is presented to the educator who exhibits strong leadership and dedication in the area of aerospace education.



**Ms. Terri Cole** was selected for this prestigious award because she always sets high standards for her students and demonstrates creativity in developing and utilizing materials to enhance the teaching of aerospace. She shares her passion for aerospace education wherever she goes. Her students have experienced numerous field trips,

some of which include the Samford University Planetarium and the McWane Center-Mission to Mars Simulation.

Ms. Cole maximizes student involvement and classroom activities by teaching hovercraft lessons for demonstration of force and motion, history of flight by using paper airplanes or computer programs, and even hosting a constellation star party that includes parents. Ms. Cole truly has had a major impact in the teaching of aerospace education in the state of Alabama. Winning the award of Alabama Aerospace Teacher of the Year, Ms. Cole had the opportunity to attend the National Conference on Aviation and Space Education in Arlington, Virginia.

*State Board of Education Member: Sandra Ray – District 7  
Tuscaloosa County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Frank P. Costanzo  
Principal: Ms. Nancy B. Terry*



## TALLADEGA CAREER/ TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Talladega Career/Technical Education Center for the renovation of the Family and Consumer Science Learning Space. The FACS program is one of the most popular programs offered to students at Talladega High School. Students in the program develop the skills necessary to address challenges faced by individuals and families in the home, school, workplace, and community. Students learn the importance of developing the ability to think, communicate, manage, and lead, which will prepare them for success in an increasingly technological and diverse society as well as the global economy.



Over the last year the FACS teacher, **KIMBERLY MITCHELL**, and the director, **DR. TRELlys A. RILEY**, have contacted numerous businesses to ask for their assistance in complying with Business and Industry Certification requirements from the Alabama Department of Education.

With the grant from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, the students in the FACS program will enjoy a new kitchen facility, sewing tables, and appliances that will allow the program to continue to meet the needs of students at Talladega High School. BIC (Business and Industry Certification) is a requirement for continued operation of all career/tech programs.

*State Board of Education Member: Stephanie W. Bell – District 3  
Talladega City Schools Superintendent: Mr. Leonard R. Messer  
Principal: Dr. Trellys A. Riley*



## STUDENT WINS PARISIAN AD CONTEST

A fifth-grade student in Ms. Terry's class at Moody Middle School recently won the Grade 3-5 division of the *Parisian Design-an-Ad Contest*. **EMILY TROXELL'S** winning ad was chosen from participating students in schools in the St. Clair, Trussville, Center Point, Leeds, and Clay areas. This contest was sponsored by The Birmingham News and Parisian. Prizes included gift certificates for both teacher and student.



*State Board of Education Member: Stephanie W. Bell – District 3  
St. Clair County Schools Superintendent: Mr. Dan Butler  
Principal: Ms. Debra Allred*



# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION

The Alabama Department of Education has been awarded recertification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for its Business and Industry Certification (BIC) process.

Alabama's Department of Education was the first state education department in the nation to achieve ISO certification in 2003. It remains the only education department in the U.S. to earn this distinction.

"Having this certification lets the business community know that the process used to evaluate our career/technical education programs is as thorough as the process they use to evaluate their companies," said **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**.

"We recently completed a very intense ISO audit that resulted in the unconditional approval and recertification of our state's BIC process. Alabama has successfully done, twice, what no other state agency in the nation has ever done once."

ISO, a non-governmental organization established in 1947, is the world's largest international developer of business and industry standards. ISO has more than half a million organizations in over 60 countries currently utilizing programs within its ISO 9001 categories, which are concerned with the implementation of quality management systems.

BIC, which is a process used to certify all Alabama Career/Technical Education (CTE) programs for business and industry compliance, monitors and evaluates Alabama's curriculum, equipment, and educational facilities to ensure they meet the rigorous standards of the international business community.

"The state Department of Education's ISO certification is a clear example of the department's commitment to preparing Alabama's students for the real challenges of today's workplace," said **BUSINESS COUNCIL OF ALABAMA PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CANARY**. "It's especially notable that Alabama educators have taken the national lead in achieving this difficult and highly respected certification. From a business standpoint, its importance can't be overstated. Alabama employers will benefit tremendously from access to a workforce that has been taught under high-quality ISO-certified conditions. This is great news both for Alabama's existing industries and for those considering making Alabama their home."

In 1998, the Alabama State Board of Education mandated that by 2003 every CTE program in Alabama would be certified to industry standards. Currently, all Alabama CTE programs are certified. 🍏



## *Awards, Opportunities, and Professional Development*

### **The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History**

The Institute is pleased to announce the 2007 Summer Seminars schedule. These seminars afford educators an opportunity to study an important topic in American history with an eminent scholar in the field at major institutions including Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge, and the University of Virginia. These week-long seminars provide educators with intellectual stimulation and a collaborative context for developing practical resources and strategies to take back to the classroom. Six new seminars are available this year. To see the schedule and apply online, [CLICK HERE](#) **Deadline: Apply Now**

### **The National Teachers Hall of Fame**

The Hall of Fame annually honors five teachers who have demonstrated commitment and dedication to teaching our nation's children. Hall of Fame inductees will receive the following awards each year: a plaque bearing their picture, name and brief description for display in their school and the Hall of Fame, Signet ring and lapel pin presented by Herff Jones, Inc., a \$1,000 scholarship for a student in the inductee's school district who is planning to pursue a degree in education presented by Sodexo, \$1,000 in materials for their school district presented by Pearson Education, a permanent display in The National Teachers Hall of Fame, a cast bronze belltower award and, a Marlow woodcut of a country school scene. To nominate a teacher, [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: December 30, 2006**

### **Toyota Tapestry Grants Program Offers Funding for K-12 Science Teachers**

A partnership between Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and the National Science Teachers Association, the Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers program offers grants to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in a school and/or school district. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete program information and the online application form. **Deadline: January 18, 2007**

### **ING Unsung Heroes Program Seeks to Reward Excellence in America's Schools**

Financial services company ING seeks to help K-12 educators and their schools fund innovative classroom projects through its annual Unsung Heroes awards program. For complete program information, application materials, and details about previous award recipients and their winning projects, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the ING Unsung Heroes awards program Web site. **Deadline: April 30, 2007**



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Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.

OCTOBER BOARD BRIEFS



ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- Gov. Bob Riley, President
Dist. 1 - Randy McKinney, Pres. Pro Tem, Gulf Shores
Dist. 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan
Dist. 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
Dist. 4 - Ethel H. Hall, V.P. Emerita, Fairfield
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Dist. 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham
Dist. 7 - Sandra Ray, Vice Pres., Tuscaloosa
Dist. 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, Huntsville
Joseph B. Morton, State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer of the Alabama Board of Education

- Approved Resolution Proclaiming October 23-31, 2006, as "Red Ribbon Week" in Alabama
Approved Resolution Recognizing Rosetta Ball, Employee of the Quarter for Oct. - Dec. 2006
Approved Resolution Endorsing Alabama School Bus Safety Week, October 15-21, 2006
Approved Resolution Recognizing Calcedaever and Mary B. Austin Elementary Schools, as No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools
Approved Resolution Recognizing Debbie Barnes, Vincent High School, as a U.S. Dept. of Education's American Stars of Teaching Award Recipient
Received Recommendations of the State Textbook Committee for Adoption of Textbooks
Approval of the State Technology Plan IMPACT 2007-2012
Approval of Praxis II Assessments (30 subjects)

For a complete list of agenda items, visit the Alabama Department of Education's Web site www.alsde.edu under Board of Education.

NOVEMBER

Calendar grid for November with dates 1-30 and event descriptions: 1-National Family Literacy Day • 7-General Election, 9-Alabama State Board of Education Meeting/Work Session, 10-STATE HOLIDAY • 11-Veteran's Day, CHILD SAFETY & PROTECTION MONTH, 12-18-American Education Week/Geography Awareness Week, 13-19-Children's Book Week, 15-America Recycles Day, 23-Thanksgiving (STATE HOLIDAY)

DECEMBER

Calendar grid for December with dates 1-30 and event descriptions: 1-Rosa Parks Day (Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus in 1955), READ A NEW BOOK MONTH, 14-Alabama Board of Education Meeting/Work Session, 16-Boston Tea Party Anniversary (1773), 25-Christmas (STATE HOLIDAY)

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



BRENDA EVANS, a second grade teacher at Dean Road Elementary School in the Auburn City School System, has been named Alfa Teacher of the Month for November. Evans says that learning can only take place when an appropriate environment, one with respect, has been established. As this month's winner, Evans will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance, and her school, Dean Road Elementary in Auburn, will receive a matching award from the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Evans graduated with a bachelor's and later a master's degree from the University of Montevallo. She has been a faculty member at Dean Road for two years. Prior to this, she taught 12 years in Shelby County.

"Children need to know that you respect them and to see you model respect for others, as well as insisting on respect from them," says Evans. "This enables children to take chances answering a question, creating a hypothesis, or even making a guess without fear of others making fun of them or saying that their statement was wrong. Next, there needs to be an established environment where children feel the freedom to explore and learn.

Jacquelynne Greenwood, Dean Road's Principal, admires Evans' creative teaching methods. "Mrs. Evans is creative and innovative in her approach to teaching and sets high standards for herself and for her students and then works hard to see that they are met," said Greenwood. "She is constantly broadening her knowledge, improving her skills, and sharing with her peers what she has learned."

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH