ALTEC NEWSLETTER

New Grants Database

The Federal Funding and Accountability Transparency Act of 2006 will provide a helpful new Web site that will give grant seekers an edge.

New Technology in 2007

Take a sneak peek at new hardware and software for schools in 2007. From affordable projectors to innovative software and affordable online resources.

ALTEC PD Services

Consider ALTEC for your next Staff Inservice Day. Visit our new Web site to choose professional development for your staff.

FREE Online Resources

Integrating technology into your classroom is a snap with these classroom-tested online resources. Enhance your curriculum today!

New Grants Database will be Beneficial to Schools

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to provide a free online searchable database with information about entities receiving federal grants and contracts. Currently the public can go to the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) for information about who is receiving federal contracts, but the information is not easily accessible. The Census Bureau also provides information about grants and financial assistance through the Federal Assistance Awards Data System (FAADS) but the system is not searchable.

A new Web site will provide a single point of reference that will allow grant seekers access to information they need to contact past recipients of awards to discuss the application process, successful strategies, and ask specific questions. Schools, districts, and the general public will have access to information about federal fund recipients such as: the name of the entity, the amount of federal funds it has re-

ceived in each of the past 10 years, the funding agency, program source, and a description and purpose of each program.

Entities seeking to apply for an award would then have a better insight into the past recipients of an award, the types of projects that have been successful, and will be better able to determine whether or not a specific project is right for them. This will be especially beneficial to those who are just getting started with grant writing and need a better idea of the types of federal programs that are available.

This new Web site will provide information about recipients of federal funds within 30 days of the award. Timely and accurate information about federal contracts and financial assistance awarded for 2006 and 2007 will be available by January 2007. Information about block grants, formula grants, and project grants will be available by October 1, 2007. Information for past fiscal years is to be provided by January 2009. The web address for this new Web site has not yet been determined.
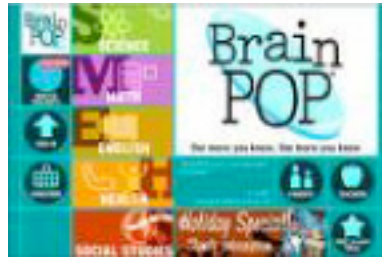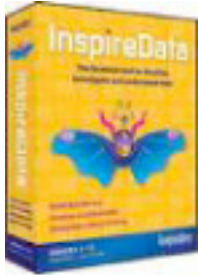
Are you interested in what's new and improved for schools for 2007? Here is a sneak peek at some of the hardware and software available to you.

SOFTWARE
Microsoft Office 2007 for PC
$65 Single User License
Microsoft Office 2007 has been redesigned with a new user interface that makes it easier to create great documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and databases. Users will no longer have to spend time looking for the right tool bars and menus to perform tasks. The toolbars and menus have now been replaced with the "Ribbon." The Ribbon appears at the top of the application you are using and contains a series of tabs that groups commands together for activities such as inserting pictures, page layout, and mailings. You no longer have to go to a drop down menu for each command. You can now click on the appropriate section on the "Ribbon" and have all of the commands you need right at your fingertips. For a complete list of new features and to test drive Office 2007 visit http://office.microsoft.com.

Inspire Data
$64 Single User License
The newest product from Inspiration allows students to build databases and explore and analyze data using visual learning tools with multiple plot types such as venn, stack, pie, and axis plots. The Slideshow feature allows students to present their findings and conclusions in a live sequence. More than 50 curriculum-based databases are available, as well as customizable icons to use when plotting. The software was created by the Technical Education Research Center (TERC), a leading educational research and development lab committed to improving science and math in teaching and learning, and is being published by Inspiration. Visit http://www.inspiration.com to download a free trial of this new software.

Inspiration 8.0
$53 Single User License
The latest version of Inspiration has new and enhanced capabilities including: keyword symbol searches, video and sound integration, 65 templates, enhanced export and transfer, drag and drop, a dictionary, thesaurus, and spell checker. And for the first time, Inspiration Web Resources are available; students can now download 60 new templates and over one million symbols. Teachers have access to more than 50 curriculum templates and online training videos on the most commonly used Inspiration features. If you order 20 licenses of Inspiration 8.0 in December, you will receive a 25 percent discount on Inspiration's other great products, including: Kidspiration 2.1 and the new InspireData! Visit http://www.inspiration.com for complete details and to download a free trial.

Microsoft Student 2007
$63 Single User License
Microsoft Student provides homework help in Math, Research, Foreign Language, and creating reports, papers, and presentations. It's like having a personal homework tutor for your kids. The software includes a full version of Encarta Premium 2007 Encyclopedia software as well as user-friendly tools to create graphs, diagrams, and step-by-step help to solve math problems. Visit the Web site, http://www.microsoft.com/student/tourLanding.mspx, for a tour of this software.

Atomic Learning
$79.99 Single User, $750 School License (600 Users)
Atomic Learning is a subscription-based online database of software tutorials for educators, parents, and students of all ages. A one-year subscription gives you unlimited access to a database of more than 8,000 software tutorials. Individual and all-school subscriptions are available at affordable prices. Its Spanish version tutorials have allowed even more parents, students, and educators to increase their technology skills. The tutorials consist of a series of more than 1,700 one- to three-minute videos. Atomic Learning is currently used in over 1,500 school districts in all 50 states and many foreign countries. Visit http://www.atomiclearning.com for complete details.

BrainPOP is now in Spanish
Several Pricing Options Available
BrainPOP is an award-winning online educational program that provides curriculum-based content about science, math, English, social studies, health, and technology for grades 3-12. This online data-base contains more than 500 animated movies complete with quizzes, comic strips, and printable worksheets that are written in a style that truly engages kids. BrainPOP currently has over 3.5 million subscribers. Educators can try BrainPOP free for 14 days or subscribe using one of the many affordable options available. Visit http://www.brainpop.com to find the option that is right for you.

HARDWARE
AFFORDABLE PROJECTORS
Epson Powerlite S4 $675
This SVGA projector weighs 5.7lbs and emits 1800 ANSI lumens.

Epson PowerLite 82c $787
This micro-portable XGA LCD projector weighs 5.9 pounds and emits 2,000 ANSI lumens.

OTHER NEW EQUIPMENT
Palm TX $299
The new Palm TX is packed full of features at an affordable price. It has a large 320x480 screen, built in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth technology, you can view, edit, and create Word Excel, and PowerPoint files. You can also store MP3 files, digital photos, and video clips. This month if you order a Palm TX you get a free wireless keyboard and free shipping with your purchase. Visit http://www.palm.com/us/ to choose the handheld computer that is right for you.

MacBook replaces iBook in wireless labs
$1099 and up
The new affordable MacBook is powered with the latest Intel Core 2 dual processor, built in iSight camera, iLife 06, 13-inch glossy widescreen display, built in Bluetooth and Airport Extreme, and dual display support. Options include up to 2GB of memory, 200GB hard drive and a 6x double layer burning SuperDrive that lets you burn DVDs faster! See all of this and more at
http://www.apple.com/macbook/macbook.html

FREE Online Resources

SMART Educator Resources
http://education.smarttech.com/ste/en-US/Ed+Resource/
Visit SMART Educator Resources for free lesson activities, online professional development, and software. Also learn about the wide range of software accredited for use with your SMART products as well as free online tools to enhance learning in your classroom. Find software suggestions for Math, Science, History, Health, Foreign Language, English, Art and Design and more!

BrainPOP Jr.: A new product for K-3
http://www.brainpopjr.com
Now educators and students in grades K-3 can enjoy the same high quality educational animated movies, comic strips, and printable worksheets from BrainPOP. New from the makers of BrainPOP, is BrainPOP Junior, designed for students in grades K-3! Try it for free online; also available with closed captioning.

Grants.gov
Grants.gov is an award-winning free Web site that lists over 1,000 grant programs from 26 Federal agencies totaling more than $400 billion in Federal grants. Organizations can read about these programs and apply for them online. Since it's inception in 2003, Grants.gov has processed over 90,000 grant applications and currently has more than 52,000 organization representatives registered. Visit http://www.grants.gov to locate a grant project that is right for you!

Teacher Tacklebox
http://4teachers.org/intech/lessons/
Visit this site and put in your specific subject, theme, and topic and you'll be connected with free online lessons, ThinkQuests, and WebQuests that are readily available to use in your classroom. The staff at Teacher Tacklebox has searched the Web to find hundreds of valuable resources to enhance learning in your classroom.

Web Worksheet Wizard
http://wizard.4teachers.org/
Are you interested in creating an online worksheet but don't know where to begin? Web Worksheet Wizard makes it easy: If you can type, you can create an online worksheet. Create a Web page complete with graphics and links in a snap, just by following the simple instructions. You can also search for worksheets by keyword and modify an existing worksheet to meet your needs.

Conference Calendar

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) 2007
Into the Next Dimension
Date: February 5-9, 2007
Location: Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas
Conference Fee: $125
Web site:
http://www.tcea2007.org/

Mid-America Association for Computers in Education (MACE)
Date: March 1-2, 2007
Location: Alumni Center, Kansas State University, Manhattan
Conference Fee: $125
Web site:
http://www.mace-ks.org/maceconference.htm

METC 2007: 21st Century Classroom
Date: February 26-28, 2007
Location: St. Louis, MO
Conference Fee: $349 Pre-registration $499 at the door
Web site:
http://www.csd.org/metc2007.htm

International Technology Education Assocation (ITEA)
Date: March 15-17, 2007
Location: San Antonio, TX
Conference Fee: $240-$390
Web site:
http://www.iteaconnect.org/Conference/

CONTACT US

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ALTEC Professional Development

Discover Technology

Listed below are the online and onsite sessions we currently offer:

ONSITE SESSIONS
An LCD Projector in the Classroom
An Interactive Whiteboard in the Classroom
The Power of Video-based Learning
Math Illustated: Using Geometer's Sketchpad
Advanced Microsoft Office
Creative Thinking Skills Using Handhelds
Strategic Technology Planning
Technology Integration Academy
Podcasting: Educational Applications
Custom Staff Inservice Days

ONLINE SESSIONS
Online Project Based Learning
Online Inspiration, Kidspiration, Kidpix
Online Interactive Whiteboard Intensive
Online Annenberg Math Resources
Online Microsoft Access

Please visit the ALTEC Professional Development Web site at http://pd.altec.org for complete details. An ALTEC representative will be happy to assist you with pricing, registration, and custom training options.