



APRIL 2006

Spotlight on Georgia



Mrs. Brenda Hill of Madison County Middle School was recently awarded the *Spotlight on Georgia: Technology Innovation Award* from the University of Georgia Educational Technology Training Center. This award is given each month to a teacher who is implementing effective technology integration strategies in the classroom. As a winner, Mrs. Hill is representing the UGA ETTC's service area, which consists of fifteen school districts and over 200 schools.



Mrs. Hill and her students use technology frequently to enhance the teaching and learning process. Students take a hands-on approach to studying the thirteen colonies, American Revolution, and Civil War by manipulating maps on the interactive whiteboard. Every nine weeks, the students participate in at least two projects involving laptop computers. As part of these projects, they research on the Internet and make PowerPoint presentations and Word documents. Mrs. Hill's students also use a Tablet PC to present their PowerPoints and to keep score during test reviews. Mrs. Hill also uses technology to increase accessibility in her classroom.

Students use the class website to print out teacher-made handouts and chapter questions, while parents find the website helpful for accessing their children's projects and assignments. Students who are absent email their assignments, and parents email Mrs. Hill to tell her how excited their children are. Technology is having a tremendous effect on teaching and learning in Mrs. Hill's class. Students are highly motivated and anxious to participate and give answers. They go above and beyond the minimum requirements by doing extra work at home on the Internet and coming in before school to work on projects. Students who are normally quiet and unmotivated have found a voice through technology, and they are focused and engaged in class.

Congratulations, David!



Staff Achievement Award
for
Five Years of Service

EDIT 4150/6150

Our Technology Bridges course for elementary pre-service teachers came to a close on Monday, March 27th. In this course, the students learned how to use technology in the teaching and learning process, particularly for presenting new material, reviewing, and assessing students' knowledge. At the beginning of the semester, the students were issued several pieces of equipment to help them with technology integration including

- a laptop with many software programs,
- an LCD projector,
- and a digital camera.

Students also had classroom response systems and Elmo document cameras at their disposal for checkout. Although the course proved to be challenging for many of the students, designing and implementing four student-centered, hands-on, technology connected lesson plans, several positive comments were made on the last day's reflection.

- "I have gotten so much out of this class, and I have actually enjoyed it. I have been exposed to programs I had never heard of before, and I have seen first hand how much technology can enhance lessons."
- "Everything that we learned and experienced in Tech Bridges, we were able to use in our classroom.."
- "When I think back to some of the lessons I created using technology, I can see them as some of my most successful lessons...the days were filled with more positive and successful learning experiences."

- "This course has helped me to think critically about using technology in this way—truly as a bridge rather than an add-on or gimmick."
- "A major plus to this class is that I now have knowledge of technology that is being used in the schools that I am applying for jobs in. I really do think that this class will be instrumental in my placement in a school for next year."

Congratulations, Cluster E! Our best wishes are with you as you begin your teaching careers.



School System Visits

The UGA ETTC staff has been meeting with school system leadership teams in our service region to "reintroduce" ourselves and all that we can do to support schools in the areas of instruction, administration, and technology. So far, we have met with the following school systems:

- Buford City
- Commerce City
- Greene County
- Madison County
- Morgan County
- Oglethorpe County
- Social Circle City

We are very excited about the relationships that have been formed or strengthened as a result of these meetings.



Wireless Grant Support

As part of Wireless IID Grant support, we have been working closely with teachers from two of our schools to assist them instructionally and technically. We have been making several on-site visits in which we work hands-on with the teachers and students to support them in the teaching and learning process. We are very excited about the technology integration this grant is supporting.

Coile Middle School, Clarke County: Students in ESOL classes at Coile Middle School are benefiting from the wireless laptops that are now in their classrooms. They are participating in web-based research, recording podcasts of their reading, and taking Online Assessment System tests in preparation for the CRCT. Future endeavors include videoconferencing, class electronic portfolios, and a movie about test-taking tips.

Carson Middle School, Greene County:

Students in sixth grade science at Carson Middle School are highly motivated by the laptops in their classroom. In our visits to the school, we have assisted the students in making a movie about the planets, using Windows Movie Maker; designed and administered a test about the solar system using the Classroom Performance System; and helped the students "write reports" on invertebrate animals using web-based research and a software of their choosing (PowerPoint or Movie Maker). In our future visits, we plan to assist the class in using the ACTIVboard and Inspiration.



21st Century Classroom

As most of us have heard the 21st century classroom is upon us. But what does this mean? Actually, the components of a 21st century classroom have been defined and are as follows: flexible arrangement of desks, wireless capabilities, interactive whiteboards, and a voting system. This month we will elaborate on the flexible arrangement element. Flexible desk arrangement refers to the positioning of desks/tables in the room. A "21st Century" room arrangement allows for collaborative work as students move fluidly from one group to another.

PROMOTE Georgia

2006 PROMOTE Georgia entries are now being judged. The following schools from our service area are participating:

- 2-3 Union Point Elementary
- 2-3 Kennedy Elementary
- 4-5 Greater Atlanta Christian Ele.
- 4-5 Kennedy Elementary
- 4-5 Oconee County Elementary
- 9-12 Classic City High
- 9-12 Buford High

Winners will be announced in May. Good luck, teams!

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