



FEBRUARY 2007

Professional Association of Georgia Educators Conference

One of the leading teacher support organizations in the state of Georgia sought out the UGA ETTC to host a regional conference in which they recognize teachers for their outstanding performance and service to students in the classroom. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) has once again brought their "Teachers of the Year" together to share ideas, resources, and instructional strategies that emphasize improving education for students across the state.



New Classes By UGA ETTC!

The UGA ETTC is continuing to offer new productivity classes. Go to <http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/classes.html> for the latest on all of our classes. Some of the new classes being offered include SMART Boards, ACTIV Boards, an Introduction to Wireless, and Classroom Performance System (a

student voting/response system).

While all of these classes are currently scheduled to be taught at the ETTC, we are more than excited to customize any class to meet your specific needs and bring that class to you. Recently, local school systems have asked for specifically designed courses to be brought to them ranging from our Make & Take Elementary (creating student/classroom activities using Microsoft Office applications) to a Para-Professional Academy (learning computer basics to take back to the classroom). Any area that you see a need or interest, don't hesitate to let us know, and we will happily customize a class to meet your needs.



Grant Writing Classes Sponsored by GaDOE

The Office of Innovative Academic Programs (IAP) is now offering a 2-day grant writing workshop. The mission statement of the Office of Innovative Academic Programs is to creatively and collaboratively improve student achievement in a

wide variety of settings.

Topics of discussion will include: 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Alternative Education & Magnet Schools, Migrant Programs, ESOL Programs, Languages & International Education, Gifted Education, and SAT & AP Programs.

Title II-D Wireless Grant

Anita White Carson Middle School of Greene County is again participating in the Title II-D Wireless Grant. Karen Vanderheyden, a 6th grade Earth Science teacher, was selected by the district office to participate in this special opportunity. Mrs. Vanderheyden was a very enthusiastic participant in the JASON project last year, and is carrying over a variety of lessons and activities to the Wireless project. Students are actively engaged as Mrs. Vanderheyden leads them through the curriculum with a passion for teaching that incorporates an array of technology, the new GeorgiaStandards.Org components, and locally implemented assessment strategies—all of which are seen as key components of raising student achievement scores. As part of our desire to impact

teachers and students, the UGA ETTC has been actively supporting Mrs. Vanderheyden with instructional support as well as technical assistance in the classroom. Several members of the ETTC staff have eagerly accepted the chance to be a part of this opportunity—to see and work with students who are so enthusiastic about this part of their school day.

Upcoming Events to put on your calendar

- Career, Technical, & Agriculture Education (CTAE) Training Sessions that will be held in late March
- GSSIS — COGNOS training: used to view all data put into the Georgia Statewide Student Information System
- Upcoming Classes at our Gwinnett Location:
 - 3/5 Dreamweaver
 - 3/6 ACTIV Board
 - 3/14 CPS
 - 3/15 Make&Take
 - 3/19 Publisher
 - 3/20 Spreadsheets Elementary
 - 3/28 Access
 - 3/30 Wireless Intro.

Technology Bridges Update

Our special technology course for preservice elementary and agriculture teachers is about half-way completed. At this point in the semester, the students have

implemented at least two technology activities using the ELMO, CPS, or Wireless Slate and two technology-connected lesson plans using a variety of technologies such as digital cameras, Graph Club, Encarta, and Timeliner.

We believe this course is already having a positive impact on our students and their mentor teachers. Here are some of their comments about lessons they have taught this semester:

“Technology has been very helpful in getting students who don’t normally participate in class to do so.” (Preservice)

“They love technology. All of them! They are so cute too, because they ask when can we do it again. I would love to have all of it at my disposal all the time. Several students really came out of their shell.” (Preservice)

“The technology enhanced the goal of the lesson.” (Mentor)

“The students were motivated and eager to participate in this fun, educational activity.” (Mentor)

“Anything new is so exciting to them. I was excited too.” (Mentor)

“It seems like in the age of video games and bombarding TV, the students are primed and ready for the digital and technological revolutions in the classroom.” (Preservice)

“I sometimes underestimate their ability to use technology, but I am always surprised at how much they know and how easily they pick up on it...I have found that using technology also holds their attention for a much longer period of time. They are more engaged and better learners and listeners.” (Preservice)

“The students were very excited about using the technology and it was a great way to assess them without the traditional pencil and paper tests.” (Mentor)

“It [technology] made the lesson kinesthetic as well as visual—appealing to more types of learners!” (Mentor)

“Nothing like technology to get the students interested!” (Mentor)

“The students were actively engaged in the entire activity. I observed lots of good thinking and sharing during the time of this lesson.” (Mentor)

Spotlight 2007

The Spotlight award recognition program for innovative technology use in the classroom is up and running for 2007. We are anxious to reward teachers who are using technology to enhance and enable the teaching and learning process! We know you’re out there, so why not get rewarded for something you’re already doing? Apply for the Spotlight award today!

<http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/spotlightga.html>