



Spotlight on Georgia

Mrs. Julie McCullers of Malcom Bridge Elementary 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. McCullers is representing the UGA ETTC's service area, which consists of fifteen school districts and over 200 schools.

Mrs. McCullers, of Malcom Bridge Elementary in Oconee County, uses technology to make a real-world connection for the students in her third grade classroom.

By using a blog, or website where readers can leave comments in an interactive format, Mrs. McCullers is able to post important, high-interest topics that come up in her classroom. Students can comment to these posts as can parents, who, in turn, stay informed of what their children are learning. Other teachers in the school and community may comment as well;



thus, the blog fosters a way for all stake-holders to contribute.

Mrs. McCullers writes, "One of my parents actually volunteered to read a book to our class that was related to one of our posts that she read." The parent wrote, "Without the blog, I would have not known about this specific topic in my son's classroom. It's a great way to get a sneak peek into the daily activities."



The blog allows for the students to write in an interactive way that is different from typical paper and pencil writing. It also gives Mrs. McCullers a place to highlight some of the students' in-class writing and recognize excellent thoughts and stories they have.

"We love being able to read the comments on our blog," writes Mrs. McCullers, "It's such a nice pat on the back for us to get a comment and to know that someone is interested in our classroom."

More information about the Spotlight award and how you can apply can be found at:

<http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/spotlight/index.html>

Science Module Training

The UGA ETTC will be offering Train-the-Trainer Workshops for the five new 8th grade Physical Science framework tasks that are to be implemented this year. In addition, we will offer three training sessions on the QX5 Digital Microscopes that were provided for all the high schools in Georgia.

The date for the first framework training, Science with Toys, will be:

Athens: Wednesday, October 31 from 9:00 – 3:00

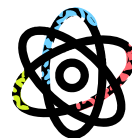
The date for the first QX5 Digital Microscope training, Biology, will be:

Athens: Monday, October 29 from 9:00 – 12:00

To register for this training and to get additional information about these training sessions, go to this web site:

http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/science_training/

Note: This training is intended for the GPS Science trainer from your school system. Your trainer will be expected to redeliver this training to the classroom teachers at the various schools.



GaETC

The 20th Georgia Educational Technology Conference will be held November 14-16, 2007, at the Georgia International Convention Center. For information about registering please visit: <http://www.gaetc.org/reginfo07.htm>
Or for general information please visit: <http://www.gaetc.org/>

Cool Tools For Media Specialists

Our Athens Cool Tools classes for media specialists (other educational professionals are welcome too) are well underway, but it's not too late to join us! Upcoming sessions are:

- **Oct. 30: Beware of the Blog...Not! (Educational Blogging)**
- **Nov. 8: iPod, uPod (Educational Podcasting)**
- **Nov. 27: Great Googley Moogley (Everything Google)**

We will be partnering with the ETTCs in Augusta and Savannah to teach these sessions by video conference. Dates and more information can be found at <http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/cooltools/index.html>

Fall 2007 - Spring 2008 Totally Technical Workshops

We are currently offering Totally Technical Workshops for the '07-'08 school year, and we want to see you there! Upcoming sessions include:

- **Nov. 6: Windows Vista**
 - **Dec. 5: Windows Updates**
- Visit our website online for specific class dates and to get more information!
http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/technical_workshops/index.html

Comments from Our Past Participants

"Great class! Looking forward to utilizing what I have learned."

"This course was so much fun. I can't wait to share with other teachers."

"I enjoyed having some play time built into the format of the course."

"I needed PLU's and this was an excellent way to obtain them and gain knowledge at the same time!"

Cool Tools for Teachers '07-'08

We are offering Cool Tools for Teachers (other educational professionals are welcome too) at our Gwinnett location. Upcoming sessions include

- **Nov. 1: Get it to go! (MS Office in the classroom)**
- **Nov. 1: Just a click away! (Student response devices)**

Join us as we explore how technology can be used to enable the teaching and learning process! Please visit the website below for dates and more information:

http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/cooltools_classroom/index.html

ITEE Update

ITEE grant teachers at our three awarded schools, Social Circle Middle School, Greene County High School, and Elbert County High School, are taking off with technology! Teachers at Social Circle Middle School recently

participated in Math Night, where they presented how they are using technology daily to teach Math in an engaging and meaningful way. Elbert County High grant teachers are also using their technology on a regular basis to engage students in science, language arts, and math. Teachers at Greene County High are diving deep into the use of the Classroom Performance System to gauge their students' understanding of the mathematical concepts being taught. Way to go!

COGNOS/Data Warehouse Training

COGNOS/Data Warehouse training is here! The Georgia Department of Education Data Warehouse has been designed to be an integrated, historical database. This tool is a great way to build, customize, and share interactive reports for data pertaining to your district, school, or even specific students. What's most exciting is that you can take what you've learned and use it on your actual data, right now! A training session for navigating and working within this tool will be held on:

- **November 28: 9:00—12:00 at the ETTC—Athens location**



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