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The NEA Academy Partners with PBS TeacherLine® to Provide the NEA's 3.2 Million Members Best in the Field Online Professional Development Opportunities

GAITHERSBURG, MD—May 28, 2009— The [National Education Association \(NEA\) Academy](#) has partnered with [PBS TeacherLine®](#), a premier provider of online professional development for preK-12 educators, to supply programs and curriculum through the Academy to the NEA's 3.2 million members. The partnership reinforces NEA's mission to increase the professional learning services offered to members.

"The NEA Academy was founded to meet the needs of teachers and education support professionals by providing effective, efficient, and economical professional development courses from leading providers, like PBS TeacherLine," said Mark Stevens, vice president of professional & web solutions for NEA Member Benefits. "This agreement signals our commitment to bringing the best professional development opportunities – at a discount – to our members."

To ensure classes provide superior professional learning opportunities, every course is prescreened against a set of quality standards that were developed by NEA members in consultation with the National Staff Development Council. In addition, before a course offering is included in the Academy, it must be recommended by a Quality Review Board consisting of NEA members and state staff. This peer-review process ensures members receive the highest quality courses.

"Teachers love to learn, but time and budget constraints often hinder their ability to pursue the professional development support they seek," said Melinda George, senior director of PBS TeacherLine. "Our partnership with NEA offers a diverse range of teachers a trusted source for high-quality, graduate-level professional development courses that are convenient and affordable."

Through the collaboration with PBS TeacherLine, the NEA Academy provides members with courses to help them efficiently strengthen their daily classroom and instructional practices. Teachers will also be able to earn continuing education units, professional development points, and graduate credits for course completion. This collaboration affords teachers the opportunity to take part in the following courses right now:

- [Curriculum Mapping I](#), which fine-tunes the scope and sequence of the curriculum that students encounter through their 13 years of schooling;
- [Teaching Reading in the Content Areas](#), which offers a variety of formats that enhances online learning communities and helps teachers incorporate research-based reading strategies in the content areas and into specific content lessons; and
- [Using Multimedia to Develop Understanding](#), which develops skills in using multimedia that promote student learning and high-level thinking skills.

In addition to PBS TeacherLine, the NEA Academy has developed agreements with CE Credits Online, I CAN Learn, KDS, Inc. – Knowledge Delivery Systems, Professional Learning Board and Virtual High School Global Consortium to extend a wide range of professional development opportunities to members.

About the NEA Academy & NEA Member Benefits

The National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing 3.2 million elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, school administrators, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers. The NEA Academy is the professional learning group developed to support educators with the highest quality online programs and is dedicated to meeting the professional needs of teachers and education support professionals.

NEA MB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NEA charged with bringing additional value to Association membership by providing financial products and solutions tailored for NEA members and their families.

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The screenshot shows the NEA Academy website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NEA logo (National Education Association) and the NEA Academy logo (@neaacademy). To the right of the logos are links for NEA.ORG, JOIN NEA, SHOP NEA, and HELP, followed by a search bar with a SEARCH button. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with five items: COURSE CATALOG, YOUR CAREER, TEACHING TOOLS, LEARNING COMMUNITY, and ABOUT US. The main content area features a large blue box on the left with the heading "We're your source for quality professional development" and a sub-heading "Welcome to NEA Academy, NEA's Web site devoted to meeting the professional needs of teachers and education support professionals! Here you'll find the highest quality courses from the best developers. All professional development courses offered through the NEA Academy are carefully screened against a set of quality standards developed by NEA members in consultation with the National Staff Development Council. Only the best courses of the highest quality make it through the screening process." Below this text is a sub-heading "Easy to use and offered at the best available rates." and a paragraph explaining that courses developed by the NEA are offered to members without cost, while those from outside vendors are offered at the best rates. It also mentions that most courses are approved in most states for renewal credits and many have optional graduate credit options. To the right of the blue box is a list of "NEW PBS TEACHERLINE COURSES" including Curriculum Mapping I, Teaching Reading in the Content Areas, Using Multimedia to Develop Understanding, Differentiated Instruction for Successful Inclusion, The Five Practices of Highly Effective Classrooms, and Teaching the ESL Learner.