



PBS TeacherLine® Courses Help Teachers Incorporate Technology Throughout the Curriculum

Through teachers' effective use of technology in the classroom, students gain 21st century skills

ARLINGTON, Va. (Nov. 8, 2006) – A new challenge facing educators is equipping students with the skills needed to compete in an evolving technology environment. Changing learning outcomes requires a change in teaching methods and strategies. PBS TeacherLine®, a provider of facilitated, online professional development for preK-12 educators, gives teachers the knowledge and skills to integrate technology into the curricula, promoting 21st century learning and increased student achievement.

All PBS TeacherLine courses—covering reading, math, science, instructional strategies, instructional technology, and curriculum mapping—embed technology resources in the course content. Educational technology provides the means to engage students in core subjects while helping them gain skills to communicate, collaborate, and create. Technology integration is threaded throughout the six key elements of 21st century learning as outlined by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. When used effectively, technology can help students expand their horizons culturally, socially and academically as well as help them gain essential job skills.

Courses offered by PBS TeacherLine provide educators with a wealth of information in the subject areas while incorporating technology integration, differentiated instruction and assessment into coursework. For example, during the course *Teaching Reading Fluency*, teachers not only learn an array of practical, research-based strategies to help students gain reading fluency, they also explore how technology fosters students' reading fluency. In another course, *Understanding Numbers and Operations: Addition and Subtraction*, participants together explore a variety of approaches for teaching computational skills by observing students, exploring lessons plans and examining Web resources. A course project requires teachers to design, implement and assess a numbers and operations lesson that combines technology, manipulatives, and effective instructional approaches.

In addition to content area courses, PBS TeacherLine offers the *ISTE (International Society for Technology In Education) Capstone Certificate Program*, a series of research-based, online professional development courses that enable teachers to demonstrate their mastery of ISTE's National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS•T). While participating in the PBS TeacherLine ISTE Capstone courses teachers build a community of educators supportive of technology integration that they can call on long after the courses are completed whenever they need assistance.

Administrators at Norfolk Public Schools in Norfolk, Va., were able to meet their district goals through PBS TeacherLine courses, including the ISTE Capstone Certificate Program. “Our new superintendent has outlined a technology-intensive four-year plan that impacts both teaching and learning,” said Janice Richison, senior coordinator of instructional technology for Norfolk Public Schools. “I’m responsible for training teachers so that they can change their daily instructional practices to include technology in their teaching versus traditional methods.” Richison selected the PBS TeacherLine ISTE Capstone Certificate Program to provide teachers in the district with convenient online courses that teach research-supported strategies in classroom technology integration.

Some of the most popular PBS TeacherLine courses that focus on instructional technology are:

- *Teaching With WebQuests*
- *Searching and Researching on the Internet*
- *Publishing on the Web*
- *Teaching and Learning with Graphic Organizers, Featuring Inspiration*©

“Educators tell us that PBS TeacherLine courses have provided them with content knowledge and instructional strategies that they were able to immediately apply to their teaching,” said Mary Kadera, PBS vice president of education. “Above all, educators like that they can collaborate with other teachers through PBS TeacherLine to share best practices and examine new instructional approaches.”

For more information about PBS TeacherLine, visit www.pbs.org/teacherline.

About PBS TeacherLine

PBS TeacherLine is committed to helping teachers acquire the skills they need to prepare students for a successful future. PBS TeacherLine provides high-quality, affordable professional development through facilitated, online courses, collaborative learning communities, and exemplary Internet-based resources. Currently, more than 90 courses across multiple subject areas are offered. Teachers can earn continuing education units, professional development points and graduate credits for course completion. The courses have been developed in conjunction with leading education organizations, including Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), Education Development Center (EDC), Concord Consortium, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and International Society for Technology Education. Created in 2000, PBS TeacherLine is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for \$6,046,811. This represents approximately 85 percent of the total program funding. The remaining 15 percent is funded through in-kind support from PBS and through program income. For more information, visit www.pbs.org/teacherline.

About PBS

PBS is a media enterprise that serves 354 public noncommercial television stations and reaches almost 90 million people each week through on-air and online content. Bringing diverse viewpoints to television and the Internet, PBS provides high-quality documentary and dramatic entertainment, and consistently dominates the most prestigious award competitions. PBS is a leading provider of educational materials for K-12 teachers, and offers a broad array of other educational services. PBS' premier kids' TV programming and Web site, PBS KIDS Online (pbskids.org), continue to be parents' and teachers' most trusted learning environments for children. More information about PBS is available at pbs.org, one of the leading dot-org Web sites on the Internet.

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