

Neag Center
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Gifted Education
and
Talent
Development

NEWS & VIEWS

The latest in Gifted Education

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ALL OF US DO NOT HAVE EQUAL TALENT, BUT ALL OF US SHOULD HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP OUR TALENT – JOHN F. KENNEDY



TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEWS

A PARADIGM SHIFT FOR SCHOOL SOFTWARE? Web-based applications are changing how educators, and students, approach computing.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=6656>

IBM AIMS TRANSLATION-BY-EMAIL SERVICE AT TEACHERS. IBM Recently added email translation to their Traducelo Ahora (Translate it Now) translation program so that school teachers can

communicate with their pupils' Spanish-speaking parents.

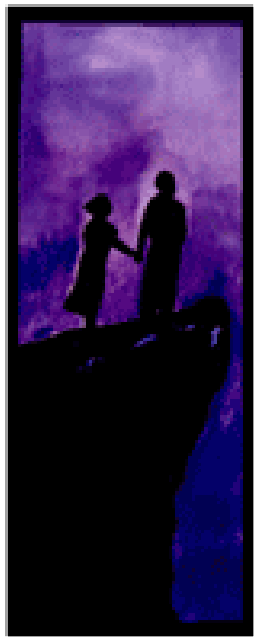
<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2035882,00.asp>

KEY ED-TECH SURVEY TO OPEN NOV. 1. NetDay to poll 250,000 students, teachers, and parents on educational technology. From Nov. 1 to Nov. 30, the national nonprofit organization NetDay will be collecting responses to its annual survey on educational technology attitudes and opinions from students, parents, and teachers. Besides releasing the national results in aggregate form, NetDay also will give local school administrators the data collected from their own communities. In the past, districts have used the information collected through the survey to help lobby local policy makers for technology investments in their schools and to make decisions about how best to integrate technology into the classroom. Information is provided on how schools can register.

<http://www.eschoolnews.org/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=6653>



FOR PARENTS: ABOUT GIFTED CHILDREN



PARENT 2 PARENT: MISLABELED BRILLIANCE IN CHILDREN. Did you know gifted children often struggle in school? In this Parent 2 Parent report, authors of a new book say the signs of brilliance aren't always what you might think.

http://kutv.com/seenon/local_story_298203105.html

SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE GIFTED STUDENT. Special education is available for students having difficulty keeping up with a standard curriculum. Students with extraordinary ability, controversially described as academically gifted and talented, rarely receive special education. Nevertheless, specialized programs may be important to their development.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061026/LIVING01/610260333/-1/COLUMNS>

TEACHING TALENTED STUDENTS



'WHOLE-GROUP INSTRUCTION' DRAGS GOOD MATH PUPILS DOWN. Given the math training our gifted elementary students receive in public schools today, America's recent sweep of the Nobel prizes in science and economics is a feat unlikely to be duplicated by younger generations.

<http://www.philly.com/mlt/inquirer/news/editorial/15775856.htm>

DISCRETE MATH COMES TO THE CLASSROOM: A NEW APPROACH FOR ARITHMETIC. Mathematics standards today expect students to go beyond the basics since children will need to think critically, solve problems, and make decisions using mathematical reasoning and strategies in a technological world. This widening of math instruction involves the use of a relatively new branch of mathematics known as discrete math. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in 1989 elevated discrete mathematics to the level of algebra, geometry, and calculus by adding it to their standards.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/news/6-10-30/47558.html>

SLANETZ: 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND' VERSUS ALL CHILDREN MOVING AHEAD. By making public schools accountable to high community standards, one district plans to move beyond No Child Left Behind to being a district where "All Children Move Ahead" by achieving at or above their aptitude.

<http://www2.townonline.com/cohasset/opinion/view.bg?articleid=599647>



DAVIDSON INSTITUTE SEEKS EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVERS TO RECEIVE \$50,000, \$25,000, AND \$10,000 DAVIDSON FELLOW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2007 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000, or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy, or Outside the Box.

To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 18 as of Oct. 1, 2007, and a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident residing in the United States. There is no minimum age for eligibility.

The deadline to apply is March 30, 2007. Applicants must submit an original piece of work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The scholarship must be used at an accredited institute of learning. For more information on the Davidson Fellows, or to download an application, please visit <http://www.DavidsonFellows.org>. Contact: Tacie Moessner, tmoessner@ditd.org, 775-852-3483 ext. 423

2007 THINK SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is seeking profoundly gifted students, ages 12 through 15, who are interested in attending the 2007 THINK Summer Institute, a three-week residential summer program on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno where students can earn up to seven college credits.

The 2007 THINK Summer Institute will run from July 14 through August 4. Tuition is \$2,700 and covers course credits, room and board, and the cost of planned programs and activities. Financial assistance is available based on need.

To qualify, students must be 12 to 15 years old during THINK, and must meet or exceed designated SAT (www.collegeboard.com) or ACT (www.actstudent.org) scores. The deadline for early acceptance is January 16, 2007. To download an application, please visit <http://www.THINKSummerInstitute.org>

BEST EVIDENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA: RESEARCH REVIEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED



Which educational programs have been successfully evaluated in valid scientific research? The Center for Data-Driven Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, has created a free website called the Best Evidence Encyclopedia (The BEE). The BEE contains educator-friendly summaries of research on educational programs as well as links to the full-text scientific reviews. The reviews, written by many qualified individuals and organizations, focus on the programs educators should consider to improve their students' achievement: math and reading programs, comprehensive school reforms, technology applications, and more. At this website you will find reliable, unbiased summaries and detailed reports on high-quality evaluations of educational programs. Check it out at <http://www.bestevidence.org/>



FORMER UCONN STUDENT, RACHEL REED, RECEIVES NSF ACADEMIES FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS 2006 AWARD

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Calvin College a new grant that will position some 100 area middle school students to be part of a unique initiative to improve science education and to strengthen students' real-world science experiences.

With the funds Calvin plans to create Team Researchers in a GLOBE-al Environment (TRIAGE), a program that will help middle school students develop authentic scientific research skills and thinking as part of a comprehensive focus on environmental sustainability. Calvin will work with Forest Hills Public Schools, Grand Rapids Catholic Schools, Grand Rapids Christian Schools, Grand Rapids Public Schools and Wyoming Public Schools. It also will work with a quintet of area business partners.

Calvin will receive \$721,754 from NSF for TRIAGE, which is slated to begin January 1, 2007. The college is one of seven prestigious institutions across the country to receive the funds as part of the NSF Academy for Young Scientists program (other institutions include the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University and the University of Chicago).

The 100-120 students in the program (two years of participants at approximately 60 students per year) will be part of a group of only 700 to 800 students nationwide with a similar opportunity.

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RACHEL REED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR TRIAGE (continued from p. 4)

Rachel Sytsma Reed, an assistant professor in education at Calvin, is the program coordinator. A former middle and high school science teacher, whose many degrees include a doctorate in educational psychology and a master's in chemical oceanography, says the time is right for this project for West Michigan.

"I feel like all of the pieces of the puzzle are right here in West Michigan," she says. "There is so much happening right now. This area has the potential to be an amazing scientific hotspot. I believe TRIAGE is part of that puzzle and can make a big contribution to what's happening here."

Reed, who spearheaded the idea and the proposal to NSF, notes that students value real-world science, but often by middle school report disliking school science. She and the project's lead team of scientists and science education professors at Calvin (Crystal Bruxvoort, Jim Jadrach, Ken Bergwerff, and David DeHeer) are hoping to show that authentic student research has the potential to re-invigorate middle school students' interests in science and research.

"Based on the literature from educational psychology and science education," she says, "student research may be an ideal way for students to engage science more intensely and deeply, leading to improved understanding of the nature of science and increased interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers. To understand the inner workings of science they need opportunities to explore real world science."

Reed says that in light of national and local STEM performance data, and the access to innovative science programs for youth locally, the overarching goal of the TRIAGE project is to provide a team-based community program that involves students in science research and promotes interest in STEM fields.

With TRIAGE the emphasis will be on middle school student research as part of a larger collaboration. A TRIAGE team includes middle school teachers, middle school students, Calvin students in the teacher education program, Calvin research faculty and even the parents of the middle schoolers.

TRIAGE teams will utilize the Bunker Interpretive Center and Ecosystem Preserve at Calvin for their home base, where they will collect data for existing projects, develop data entry and analysis skills, design and execute their own research projects, and engage in team-building activities using resources, games, and exhibits in the Bunker Center.

(continued on next page)

RACHEL REED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR TRIAGE (continued from p. 5)

Each month will include STEM career presentations and off-site tours utilizing business partners and advisory board members' community connections. The entire TRIAGE program is extra-curricular, occurring after school and during the summer.

Business partners for the project include Meijer Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Park, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Timmermans Environmental, West Michigan Environmental Action Council and the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum.

The TRIAGE advisory Board includes: Gordon Van Harn, Van Andel Education Institute; Janet Vail, Annis Water Resources Institute; Gail Heffner, Calvin College; Shawn Wessel, West Michigan Environmental Action Council; Linda VanderJagt, Forest Hills Public Schools; and Diana Payne, Connecticut SeaGrant, University of Connecticut.

In addition, students will spend two weeks during the summer engaged in a Student Research Institute (SRI), working alongside research faculty at Calvin College to develop their own research knowledge, skills, and questions. Their year-long participation in TRIAGE will conclude with a student-organized and led research colloquium.

Each partnering school district has a paid coordinator for the project: Bernard Stanko, Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools; Dan Hunsberger, Forest Hills Public Schools; Lois Brink, Grand Rapids Christian Schools; John Howarth, Grand Rapids Public Schools; and Thomas Reeder, Wyoming Public Schools.

Reed says the project's focus on environmental sustainability draws upon concerns and issues relevant to the immediate community.

"We live in the Great Lakes watershed, which is affected by and affects agriculture, land development, and resource management, says Reed. "Recognizing that students begin losing interest in school science by early middle school, TRIAGE draws upon science relevant to the lives of the students we will reach. As a focal topic, 'environmental sustainability' is broad enough to have relevant components in any community."

And she says the benefit for NSF and thus for the nation's science education efforts as a whole is that TRIAGE will inform NSF about what works and what does not work in developing grass roots, community-based initiatives for increasing recruitment and retention in STEM fields.

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RACHEL REED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR TRIAGE (continued from p. 6)

Interestingly, the GLOBE in TRIAGE refers to an interagency program funded by NASA and the National Science Foundation, supported by the U.S. Department of State and implemented through a cooperative agreement between NASA, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, and Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. To date, more than 180 teachers have been GLOBE trained in the state of Michigan. This training has been a cooperative effort of the Regional Math and Science Center at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), the Michigan Environmental Council, and the GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute.

Calvin associate dean for teacher education Susan Hasseler notes that Reed's recent grant, and a multitude of other grants to Calvin faculty over the last four years, allow the college to develop very close relationships with local public and private schools while also providing an avenue for research and publication for Calvin faculty and students.

In fact the total amount of grant funding awarded to faculty members in the teacher education program at Calvin now stands close to \$1.5 million.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring this exceptional opportunity to West Michigan students and the larger community," says Reed, "and we hope that students, teachers, and families are eager to join in this regionally unique project."

Contact Reed at 616-526-6032 or rachel.reed@calvin.edu



THE HOME TEAM IS PROUD OF ITS 2006 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN AWARD RECIPIENTS!

ANN ISSACS FOUNDATION AWARD: Joseph S. Renzulli

EARLY LEADER AWARD: M. Katherine Gavin

OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL STUDENT AWARD: Elizabeth Fogarty

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S STUDENTS AWARD: Ashley Hines & Jeffrey Danielian

RESEARCH & EVALUATION COMPLETED DOCTORAL RESEARCH SILVER MEDAL: Jill L. Adelson

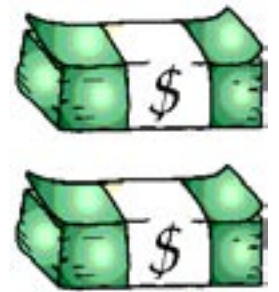
CURRICULUM STUDIES CURRICULUM AWARD: Project M³ Staff



MONEY MATTERS



This issue of "News and Views" continues our updated column, "Money Matters", a regular feature that spotlights funding opportunities in three areas – student contests, teacher grants, and academic scholarships. This issue focuses on the language arts - reading and writing.



MONEY MATTERS: SPOTLIGHT ON LANGUAGE ARTS STUDENT CONTEST – KIDS ARE AUTHORS



Have you ever wanted your students to publish their own books? Here is an opportunity for the whole class, a small group, or even one student to see their work in print!

The "Kids Are Authors" contest is sponsored by the Scholastic Foundation (yes, that's right – the same folks who bring you Scholastic Magazine). In order to qualify, students must be enrolled in grades K-8 in any accredited public or private school. Students work to write and illustrate their own fiction or nonfiction book. Length may vary, but should be between 21-29 pages.

Two grand prizes will be awarded, one for fiction and one for nonfiction. These students' will receive 100 copies of their published books, and a school of their choice will receive \$5,000 in merchandise from Scholastic Book Fairs. Twenty-five additional honorable mention students will receive \$500 in Scholastic Book Fair merchandise for a school of their choice.

Sample titles from previous winning authors have included

- What Do You Call a Rhyming Riddle? A Hinky Pinky!
- Problems with Pete the Pencil and Eddie the Eraser
- The Music Inside Me

All entries are due March 7, 2007. More information and an official entry form visit the competition website at <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/kaa/index.htm>

Contributed by Nancy N. Heilbronner

MONEY MATTERS: SPOTLIGHT ON LANGUAGE ARTS

TEACHING GRANT: DONORS CHOOSE



Have you ever had a great idea but not the resources to fund it? If so, perhaps you might apply to Donors Choose, a not-for-profit website that creates a database of educational projects, and then allows potential philanthropic donors to browse them for funding.

Requests range by dollar amount and subject. Two requirements exist – the services or goods requested must directly impact students, and the project must not promote a particular political or religious viewpoint. Teachers submit a request, implement the project once funded, and then provide documentation and a thank you to the donor once completed.

To date, Donors Choose has funded over \$9 million for educational projects. Past projects have included a field trip to purchase books at a low SES school in Manhattan, books and magazines for libraries, and writing centers in the classroom. Projects are not limited to language arts or reading - science, social studies, and math projects also are routinely funded.

For more information or to submit a proposal or view projects for funding, visit the website at <http://www.donorschoose.org/localeo/index.php>

SCHOLARSHIP: THE NATIONAL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST



The National Peace Essay Contest may be a way for a talented high school writer to put away money for ever-increasing college costs. Sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, the challenge is to craft a 1,500 word essay that analyzes the reasons that youth become involved in violence, and to propose solutions for the problem. Students may win from \$1,000 to \$10,000 in college scholarships.

Essays are due February 1, 2007. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.usip.org/ed/npec/>

Contributed by Nancy N. Heilbronner

RENZULLI LEARNING SYSTEMS RECOMMENDATIONS! Here are some favorite websites from RLS that may help teachers motivate and interest their students through the use of Internet technology:

Mr. Elephant's Matching Game <http://www.learningplanet.com/act/mre/index.asp>
This site will test your memory! Match the animals, shapes, letters, colors or whatever Mr. Elephant throws your way. Test your memory and try to beat the high score.

ECO Kids <http://www.ecokidsonline.com/pub/>
Play games, read stories, and get information about all different aspects of the environment. There are fun games about different categories of animals, ecosystems, and more. Learn everything you want to know about wildlife.

Make a Flake <http://snowflake.lookandfeel.com/>
This is a fun website for winter time. At this site you will be able to make your own snowflake!

Invention Playhouse: Tinker Ball http://inventionatplay.org/playhouse_tinker.html
Calling all future engineers! On this site, you start with a ball on a ledge and use the materials provided to get it into the cup below. It's a real challenge to predict how the ball will roll. See how many ways you can come up with!

Instant Haiku Generator <http://byakkohaiku.tripod.com/ihkg.htm>
Use this tool to learn the how to make haikus and create some silly ones. Then try your own. You can even submit them and read poems by others

You can check out Renzulli Learning at <http://www.renzullilearning.com/>
Contributed by Gara Field and
Nancy N. Heilbronner



University of
Connecticut

Neag Center for Gifted Education
and Talent Development
2131 Hillside Road, Unit 3007
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3007
Newsletter Editor and News Columnist:
Jill L. Adelson
jill.adelson@uconn.edu

