



# Mississippi Public Broadcasting

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## EDUCATION CONNECTION

### EDUCATION SERVICES e-NEWSLETTER

*September 2007*

Welcome to **EDUCATION CONNECTION**—Education Services' monthly e-Newsletter designed to help the educational community stay current regarding Mississippi Public Broadcasting's educational services, programming and information!

This newsletter is part of a broader overall education communications plan to increase the exposure and use of Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services Division. We hope you'll find this resource supports your own work to educate students and others in your community. Please feel free to copy or forward to teachers and others in your school or district.

NOTE: If you would like to join our Education Services Listserv and receive important updates for Educators, please e-mail your request to [nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org](mailto:nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org).

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## Professional Development

### Education Specialists available to conduct **FREE** Professional Development Workshops

It's still not too late to receive professional development from Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services Division! Education Specialists are available to visit your school and conduct **FREE** onsite trainings. Workshops offered include classroom utilization of MPB Express ([unitedstreaming](#)); understanding copyright as it applies to using video in the classroom; using MPB's Adult Learning programs for preparation to take the GED exam and for employment (*GED Connection*, *Workplace Essential Skills*, [TV411](#) and [PBS Literacylink](#)).

MPB Express workshops can be scheduled for a minimum of two-hours and up to five hours of training in a computer lab in your school district. Continuing Education

Units (CEUs) equaling .5 credits are available for participation in the five hour training. Please ensure at least ten people are present for any scheduled training.

Throughout the school year, MPB Education Services staff will host in-house and regional trainings and workshops for CEU credit. You may register for trainings on the MPB website through our online registration system at [www.mpbonline.org](http://www.mpbonline.org).

To schedule training at your school, please submit an electronic request to [nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org](mailto:nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org). Best wishes for the 2007-08 school year!

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## Educational Technology

### **MPB's Education Services Division introduces *MATRIX MISSISSIPPI!***

In a collaborative effort with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Office of Student Achievement and Growth, five schools/school districts have been identified as leading candidates for MPB's technology integration initiative known as ***MATRIX MISSISSIPPI***. Services offered through the Matrix Mississippi Initiative include: Matrix Learning, *PBS Teacherline*, *unitedstreaming* (Discovery Education).

Star Schools, also known as MATRIX Learning (Middle-School Achievement through Technology-Rich Intervention) is designed to improve mathematics achievement of middle school students in urban and rural schools, not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), through the use of mobile technologies, including PDAs, ipods and videocameras. The project provides learning modules and games using emerging technologies along with Quantum Simulations' online Artificial Intelligence Assessors & Tutors. MATRIX Learning capitalizes on these interests to engage students who may be disinterested in school and mathematics in particular.

Funding for this five-year, ongoing program is provided through a federal grant, issued by the U.S. Department of Education Star Schools program, *PBS Teacherline*, and AT&T Telecom Pioneers Foundation.

### **MIVN – Promoting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in 2007-2008**

This year holds much promise for MIVN classes as we explore exciting new technologies for students of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Education Services Educational Technology staff has changed over the last six months, and we want you to know that we are committed to providing quality educational services to as many teachers and students as we possibly can.

At the end of the first week of school, we were running approximately 75 accredited classes taught by certified Mississippi teachers for over 150 Interactive Video Network school sites per day.

We will continue to schedule special video-conferencing events throughout the course of the year.

Our first offering is from Education Services Foundation:

### **“Road Map for Seniors”**

High school 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible to participate and learn how to make the transition from high school/work to college. The workshop includes the following key topics:

- \* ESF’s Free College Planning Services
- \* College Planning Timeline for Seniors
- \* How to Choose a College or University
- \* Admission Standards at MS Universities
- \* Applying for Scholarships and Financial Aid
- \* Application Checklist

The date is **September 6, 2007**. MIVN school sites are encouraged to register early due to limited seating.

You may register for this *important* video conference event on the MPB website at [www.mpbonline.org](http://www.mpbonline.org) through the MPB Online Registration system (located on the left-hand side of the home page). A valid e-mail account is required.

**IMPORTANT:** Each MIVN site should assign a lead contact person to create a user account for their school site on the MPB online registration system to register for MIVN special events.

For more information on the Mississippi Interactive Video Network, please contact **Nancy Pearson**, [nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org](mailto:nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org), 601-432-6254, or **Jill Boteler**, [jill.boteler@mpbonline.org](mailto:jill.boteler@mpbonline.org), 601-432-6203.

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## **Educational Programming**

### **Live, interactive program complements *The War* for High School Teachers and Students**

WIPB Public Television and Ball State University are pleased to present *Echoes of War: Stories from the Big Red One* – a Digital Media experience complete with an hour-long interactive program and companion website. Featuring an introduction and close by Ken Burns, *Echoes of War* focuses on the famed 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division of the United States Army, also known as the Big Red One, bringing to life the heroics and humanity of WWII as told by veterans who witnessed them first hand.

This live program, which airs **September 27, 2007** at **1:00 p.m.** and **8:00 p.m.** ET, will originate from the First Division Museum at Cantigny in Wheaton, IL, providing viewers and students the ability to take a tour of the museum while hearing stories from Big Red One veterans who fought in WWII. Since the broadcast is live, it has the potential to be an interactive experience for teachers who participate in the program with their students — more than just a static television program. Students can call or e-mail with questions that will be answered or discussed by the WWII veterans, Ball State University historians, or curators of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Museum. During the broadcast and up to 2 weeks following the broadcast, the website will feature an online Bank of Experts who will answer questions in our discussion forum.

The website will be geared to students and teachers and it will serve two purposes: To provide teachers with the background and materials to guide their students through the field trip, and to provide interactive content for students to explore the subject at their own pace.

This will be a truly unique virtual classroom experience! Visit the website at [www.bsu.edu/echoesofwar](http://www.bsu.edu/echoesofwar) and for press materials, visit [www.bsu.edu/wipb/media/echoesofwar.asp](http://www.bsu.edu/wipb/media/echoesofwar.asp)

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## Early Childhood

### The BTL Preschool Literacy Library Project

Mississippi's largest energy company, Entergy, is teaming up with the Foundation for Public Broadcasting in Mississippi (Foundation), Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB), and Mississippi's public libraries to power up literacy in pre-kindergarten children statewide. The ***Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Library Project*** places the scientifically-based reading research curriculum of the seven-time Emmy® Award-winning PBS KIDS series into 17 public libraries this fall, making these libraries a key community tool in teaching pre-kindergarten children ages three to five years old.

Through the ***Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Initiative***, MPB provides resources, expertise, and encouragement to 51 child care centers in the Jackson area affecting 1,114 children with the help of its partners – the Barksdale Reading Institute, WGBH, Sirius Thinking and Mississippi State University's Early Childhood Institute. Serving as mentors, MPB learning specialists model teaching methods and provide books, materials, and an early reading skills curriculum of the *Between the Lions* series to the child care center directors and teachers.

The ***Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Library Project*** is a partnership between the Foundation, MPB, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, the national PBS KIDS Raising Readers literacy initiative, and Entergy, the primary sponsor of this project through its *Destination Education* initiative. Visit [www.mpbonline.org](http://www.mpbonline.org) for more information regarding the ***Between the Lions Preschool***

**Literacy Library Project** and the *Between the Lions* children's television series that airs weekdays on Mississippi Public Broadcasting television at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

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## Adult Learning

### ABE Career Connections Project

The Workforce Strategy Center and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, invite adult basic education (ABE) programs across the country to apply for the ABE Career Connections project.

Five sites will be selected to receive support in the development and implementation of new or improved approaches to build upon their current involvement in career pathways. The ABE Career Connections project will demonstrate how ABE programs can operate within career pathways to prepare students for postsecondary courses leading to a degree or occupational certificate targeted toward an industry important to a regional economy.

Each winner will receive \$75,000.00, technical assistance, and national recognition. For more information, visit the Workforce Strategy Center Website <<http://www.workforcestrategy.org/>>. Applications are due **September 5, 2007**.

### Schedule change for Adult Learning programs

Starting **September 3, 2007**, *GED Connection*, *Workplace Essential Skills* and *TV411* get new broadcast times:

- **TV411** airs from **3:00-4:00 a.m., Tuesday-Saturday**
- **Workplace Essential Skills** airs from **4:00-5:00 a.m., Tuesday-Saturday**
- **GED Connection** airs from **5:00-6:00 a.m., 7 days a week**

Remember, *GED Connection*, *Workplace Essential Skills* and *TV411* can be recorded straight off air! Workbooks for each program can be purchased by calling (800) 354-9067.

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## News You Can Use

### Website offers free resources on Internet safety

The NetSmartz Workshop™ is an interactive, educational safety program from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children for children (ages 5-17), parents, guardians, educators and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate games and activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet. NetSmartz activities

and games are available at no cost to the public via the Internet at [www.NetSmartz.org](http://www.NetSmartz.org).

Schools can use NetSmartz in different ways:

- setting [www.NetSmartz.org](http://www.NetSmartz.org) as the school's home page
- implementing NetSmartz into the Acceptable Use Policy at the beginning of the year
- allowing time for NetSmartz during homeroom or study halls
- involving law enforcement for presentations

NetSmartz has released updated presentations available for download for free from [www.NetSmartz.org/presentations](http://www.NetSmartz.org/presentations). The presentations are each tailored for Kids, Tweens, Teens, and Parents/Communities. Enter your information to receive the emailed link, then click RUN and follow the prompts. You can also print out and reproduce any of the materials that you find on [www.NetSmartz.org](http://www.NetSmartz.org) with specific reproduction guidelines. Resources are made available through NetSmartz and a partnership through Mississippi State Attorney General Jim Hood and the Mississippi Department of Education.

## **New videos available to Teachers in Mississippi**

The Mississippi History on Loan Program will send videotapes from their catalog to Mississippi teachers to enhance classroom instruction. Over 200 available titles are appropriate for use in history, English, art, and music classes. New titles are frequently added to the catalog. For more information or to request a free catalog, please call or write the Manship House Museum at: 420 E. Fortification Street, Jackson, MS 39202-2340, (601) 961-4724, or email at [manship@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:manship@mdah.state.ms.us).

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## **Helpful Links and Resources**

The following websites are available for additional teaching tips, professional development, activities and information:

[PBS.org](http://PBS.org)

[unitedstreaming](http://unitedstreaming)

[PBS Teachers](http://PBS Teachers)

[Mississippi Department of Education](http://Mississippi Department of Education)

[PBS Teacherline](http://PBS Teacherline)

[State Board for Community Colleges](http://State Board for Community Colleges)

[PBS Kids](http://PBS Kids)

[Test Prep Review](http://Test Prep Review)

[PBS Kids Go!](http://PBS Kids Go!)

[Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning](http://Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning)

[PBS Parents](http://PBS Parents)

[www.gedonline.org](http://www.gedonline.org)

[www.TV411.org](http://www.TV411.org)

[www.NetSmartz.org](http://www.NetSmartz.org)

[PBS Literacylink](http://PBS Literacylink)

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## How Can We Help – What Do You Want to See?

We want to hear from you, and learn what kinds of content you would like to see in the monthly MPB Education Services e-Newsletter. Was the information in this issue helpful? What more would you like to see? We are also seeking questions and comments about the format of this newsletter.

Finally, we want to use this newsletter to answer your questions about Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services. Please email all comments and questions to [nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org](mailto:nancy.pearson@mpbonline.org), or you can call us at (800) 922-9698.

For more information about our services and programming, visit our website at [www.mpbonline.org](http://www.mpbonline.org).

Our mailing address is:

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Educating Entertaining Enlightening