



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION SERVICES e-NEWSLETTER

April 2008

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.

If you would like to join our Education Services' distribution list and receive important updates for Educators, or if you wish to no longer receive these newsletters, please e-mail darrell.lee@mpbonline.org.

Educational Technology

MATRIX Mississippi Receives Coveted "AFFY AWARD" for Technology Integration!

Mississippi Public Broadcasting received the *Affinity Award* (also known as "*The Affy*") for its new technology integration initiative called *MATRIX Mississippi* (Middle-School Achievement through Technology-Rich Intervention). The award was presented by the Alliance for Distance Education in California, for continued work in technology integration projects and services and also for embarking upon creative partnerships with California.

"*The Affy*" award honors distinguished Distance Education projects in California. The Affinity Groups that make up the membership of ADEC are the driving force behind

its mission. Professional Affinity Groups include K12, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, lifelong learning and business (profit/non-profit).

Last year's recipients included: CAST: Center for Applied Special Technology; PORTS: Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students; and Time for Remembrance.

To qualify for an *Affy Award*, the project must:

- Be inter-segmental - Involve creative and/or unusual partnerships
- Have objective outcomes (successes, research, assessments)
- Make effective use of technology (i.e. internet, TV, ITFS, cable, videoconferencing, mobile technologies, DVD, etc.)
- Be a model for effective student/teacher accommodations.
- Be a model for effective distance and distributed education.

Services offered through *MATRIX Mississippi* include: Matrix Learning, *PBS Teacherline*, e-Learning for Educators and *DE Streaming*. 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 Pioneer Foundation.

MPB extends invitation for Educators to join Teachers' Domain!

Teachers' Domain is an online library of free multimedia resources as well as professional development courses developed by WGBH in Boston that help teachers enhance their students' learning experiences and advance their own teaching skills using media from *NOVA*, *Frontline*, *American Experience*, and other public broadcast programming.

Registering with *Teachers' Domain* is free and allows you to:

- View as many resources as you like
- Save, sort, and share resources using My Folders and My Groups
- Download resources to your desktop
- See standards correlations for your state

To register, please visit <http://www.teachersdomain.org/>. *Teachers' Domain* PBS TeacherLine courses:

- Offer convenient and flexible access
- Are led by trained, certified facilitators
- Include real-world applications
- Tap media-rich resources from the Teachers' Domain collections
- Help PreK-12 teachers enhance instructional practice
- Help you find new innovative ways to integrate technology and media into your curriculum

For more information and/or a promotional code to obtain discounted enrollment fees, visit <http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/>, or contact Jill Boteler or Nancy Pearson at 1-800-922-9698.

Educational Outreach

***READING RAINBOW* Contest Generated High Entries!**

The 14th annual ***Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest*** received more than 200 entries from children from kindergarten through third grade. Young and creative students across Mississippi wrote and illustrated their very own stories and submitted them to MPB to be judged locally.

Each child who entered received a special Certificate of Achievement signed by LeVar Burton, host of the *Reading Rainbow* series. First, second and third place winners will be announced in late April, early May for each grade level, with each receiving a *Reading Rainbow* backpack, a DVD copy of a *Reading Rainbow* program, and being treated to a special two-day winner's celebration event in Jackson. Winners will also have the opportunity to read their stories on MPB Radio.

First place winners will advance to the national competition. The contest was conducted in cooperation with MPB and WNED-TV of Buffalo, New York, and Smarterville Productions LLC. For further inquiries contact Sharon Person at 601-432-6172 or sharon.person@mpbonline.org.

Reading Rainbow is broadcast Monday through Friday at noon on MPB.

Early Childhood

The *Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Project Wins Again!

MPB received the 2008 National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) award in Instructional Media for ***MPB's Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Initiative*** during the annual NETA Conference held in Columbus, Ohio this year.

According to MPB Executive Director Marie Antoon, "Education is a core mission for Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The ***Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Initiative*** exemplifies how MPB provides educational services and resources that are meaningful, impactful and successful directly to the diverse needs of our communities in the area of early childhood development."

Between the Lions features a loveable family of lions— father Theo, mother Cleo, son Lionel, and daughter Leona—to introduce pre-kindergarten children to the concepts of print, language, and reading. The same video segments broadcast on MPB each weekday and on public broadcasting television stations nationwide are being used to stimulate early learning hands-on reading activities in the participating child care centers.

Recent research findings concluded that the literacy environment of the *Between the Lions* participating classrooms improved dramatically as a result of their involvement in the project – as much as 58% to 100% – including significant gains in letter knowledge, the conventions of reading (left to right, top to bottom, front to back), comprehension that builds their vocabulary, and improvements in the classroom that promote learning as fun and exciting. The findings are stated in the University of Mississippi Study using the Early Language Literacy and Classroom Observation (ELLCO) measurement.

The *Between the Lions* program airs weekdays on MPB TV at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

Adult Education

PBS Literacylink Online Management System is now being offered at a Super-Discount!

[PBS Literacylink's](#) Online Management System (OMS) helps adult educators teach and manage the work of students who are using Web-based *Workplace Essential Skills* and *GED* and *Pre-GED Connection* lessons and practice tests.

With the Online Management System, teachers can set up a virtual classroom with access to learners' online work, from a distance or inside the classroom; they can accept or reject learners to control enrollment. Using the Literacylink e-messaging system, educators can interact with learners to offer recommendations and encouragement. At any time during the year, instructors can quickly run reports showing learner involvement, virtual classroom activity and demographics.

From the "Home Space", registered teachers can access online lessons for *Workplace Essential Skills* and *GED Connection*; see answer keys for *GED Connection* quizzes and practice tests; click on a map to see airdates and times for *Workplace Essential Skills* and *GED Connection* programs broadcast in their area; use the same online calculators, dictionaries, thesaurus and other tools their learners use; and keep a journal for recording thoughts and observations.

The Online Management System can be purchased three ways:

1. An individual site license allows multiple teachers at one location to establish and manage virtual classrooms.
2. A multiple-site license offers discounts for two or more sites.

3. State licenses allow all the instructional programs affiliated with the licensing agency to use the videos and the Online Management System for the life of the license. A state license also provides for large discounts for programs purchasing workbooks and additional tapes.

Mississippi ABE centers are now being offered the Online Management System at a drastically discounted rate! If your center is interested in enrolling and using this amazing service to keep track of student activity on the Web site, please contact Darrell Lee at darrell.lee@mpbonline.org.

On the Horizon

Stay Tuned for the all-new MPB KIDS CLUB!

Coming this spring to Mississippi is the **MPB KIDS CLUB**—a club designed especially for children 4-12 to help them learn about performing arts, technology, ecology, math, science and a whole lot more. Membership in the kids club will be free and available to any child in the state. Keep checking the MPB website for the official **MPB KIDS CLUB** launch date and for downloadable membership applications.

Helpful Links and Resources

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

PBS.org

PBS Teachers

PBS TeacherLine

PBS Kids

PBS Kids Go!

PBS Parents

PBS Literacylink

www.ket.org/ged2002

<http://www.ketadultlearning.org/>

www.TV411.org

Mississippi Department of Education

Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning

State Board for Community Colleges

Discovery Education Streaming

Test Prep Review

www.gedonline.org

www.NetSmartz.org

Discovery Educator Network

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 darrell.lee@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.

Our mailing address is:

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Educating Entertaining Enlightening