



# Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Educating Entertaining Enlightening

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## EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION SERVICES e-NEWSLETTER

*May 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 Department. 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](mailto:darrell.lee@mpbonline.org).

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## 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 at [jill.boteler@mpbonline.org](mailto:jill.boteler@mpbonline.org).

## Mark Your Calendar...

Attend two days of intensive professional development, **June 1-3, 2008**, at the world headquarters of Discovery Communications, LLC in Silver Springs, Maryland where you will learn all there is to know about fully utilizing the resources in Discovery Education *Streaming*.

The [Discovery Education National Training Academy](#) is designed to provide you with the training, resources and tools you need to return to your school or district and provide ongoing support and professional development to your colleagues.

[Register for the Discovery Education National Training Academy.](#)

## Educational Outreach

### *And the Winners Are...*

More than 250 kindergarten-third grade students in Mississippi submitted stories and illustrations in this year's annual *Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators* contest. The prestigious awards go to the following students:

#### **Kindergarten Winners**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Caylee Bruce—Brandon, MS—Word of Faith Academy  
"Meg and Her Doll"

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Morgan Allyse Breland—Laurel, MS—Ellisville Elementary School  
"Have a Tea Party and Call Your Friends"

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Ada Fulgham—Ackerman, MS—Homeschool  
"The Unicorn Who Loved Blueberries"

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Carly Pope—Lucedale, MS—Rocky Creek Elementary School  
"My Mama and Me"

#### **First Grade Winners**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Chip Purviance—Brandon, MS—Rouse Elementary School  
"Chance and Darla Get Along"

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Abby Cannon—Brandon, MS—Rouse Elementary School  
"The Snaggled-tooth Princess"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Brittany Roberson—Brandon, MS—Rouse Elementary School  
"My Brother"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Seth Ward—Quitman, MS—Quitman Lower Elementary  
"The Animals' Home"

**Second Grade Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Julia Bristow—West Point, MS—Oak Hill Academy  
"How Many Wishes?"

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Winston Charles Bennett—Meridian, MS—Northeast Lauderdale Elementary  
"Rescue at Sea"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Emma Siler—Brookhaven, MS—Mamie Martin Elementary  
"Oliver Finds His Perfect Sport"

**Third Grade Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

Renee Prulhiere—Corinth, MS—East Corinth Elementary  
"The Magic Mansion"

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Kayla Love—Jackson, MS—Boyd Elementary  
"The Goddess of Dreams"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Lillian Fulgham—Ackerman, MS—Homeschool  
"The Hawk Saw It First"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

Miller Carlton—Corinth, MS—East Corinth Elementary  
"The Farmer's Girl and Her Search for Friendship"

The winners of this year's *Reading Rainbow* contest will be treated to a two-day Winners' Celebration in Jackson on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Celebration activities include: recording their stories for radio broadcast, "Story Time" at Barnes & Noble and a pizza party at Gatti Town, just to name a few. Each of the winners will receive a *Reading Rainbow* backpack and DVD, as well as a set of children's books to encourage reading during the summer. In addition, all first place winners will advance to the National Competition.

## Early Childhood

### Continued Research Proves *Between the Lions* is Successful with Preschoolers!

The *Between the Lions* *Preschool Literacy Initiative* is completing its third year of mentoring in preschool classrooms. Seventy four classrooms and 1375 children have participated in the project from fall 2005 to spring 2008. In the 2006-2007 findings, the *Between the Lions* Literacy Curriculum demonstrated significant gains in letter recognition, phonemic awareness and other benchmarks for four-year olds.

The literacy program created by Mississippi Public Broadcasting and Mississippi State University provides technical assistance and mentoring to local childcare centers. Such efforts have demonstrated gains of as much as 142% in standardized classroom literacy environment evaluations.

In addition, after intensive mentoring, these gains are sustained in later years, which subsequently lead to better literacy gains for children in learning environments. The 2007 – 2008 research findings should be completed by August 2008.

## Adult Education

### Utilization Workshops Available to GED Classes!

Mississippi Public Broadcasting offers FREE onsite professional development for GED classes interested in utilizing its Adult Education resources. Teachers are introduced to *GED Connection*, *Workplace Essential Skills* and *TV411* through a series of hands on activities. Through guided instruction, participants are shown how to utilize all components of the Adult Education programs that include videos, print materials and the Internet.

Teachers and students can sign-up for free online accounts at the [PBS Literacylink](#) website. Students have 24/7 access to thousands of online enrichment activities, practice tests and web resources to prepare them for the GED exam and to get jobs. During the training, adult educators are introduced to the [Online Management System](#) (OMS), a way for them to teach and manage the work of students who are using *Workplace Essential Skills* and *GED* and *Pre-GED Connection* lessons and practice tests online.

To schedule an Adult Education utilization training at your school or center, please contact Darrell Lee at [darrell.lee@mpbonline.org](mailto:darrell.lee@mpbonline.org).

# Special Announcements

## Introducing the MPB KIDS CLUB!!!

Attention, Teachers, Parents, Grandparents and Guardians!

Are you looking for something fun and educational for the kids? Well, look no further! Mississippi Public Broadcasting is pleased to announce the arrival of a club especially for children ages 4-12...THE MPB KIDS CLUB!!!

### OBJECTIVES:

- Engage kids in educational and enriching activities
- Promote career development, especially in math, science, and technology
- Encourage kids to be creative in visual and performing arts
- Foster self-esteem and self-awareness
- Educate kids in the importance of making good decisions
- Increase knowledge of public broadcasting
- Provide increased exposure to current state, national, and international events
- Support parental participation in the lives and educational development of their children

The MPB KIDS CLUB will allow members to enter contests, to submit stories and illustrations, and to create KIDS CLUB characters. Kids can also attend scheduled PBS meetings, events and show tapings. MPB KIDS CLUB members will have the chance to go online and play interactive games, go on virtual field trips and upload content that they create. They'll also receive special discounts from participating sponsors, as well as gifts and prizes from MPB!

In addition, kids will receive an official membership card and an on-air birthday announcement. The MPB KIDS CLUB is now open for enrollment...and it's FREE to join! For an application and additional information, go to [www.mpbonline.org](http://www.mpbonline.org).

## PCS Digital Media Lab Giveaway

Educators have a chance to win big from PCS Edventures newest product line. Introducing the new Infusing Technology Digital Media Labs! Designed for today's youth, PCS Digital Media Labs will transform any classroom into a technology-driven environment that uses digital photography, video, and podcasting to make your daily lesson plans more effective and engaging for both you and your students! Three lucky winners will receive a Digital Media Lab of their choice! Simply click on the link below then fill out a simple form to win your school or organization one of the exciting prizes mentioned! Also, if you tell others about the giveaway, you can improve your odds of winning. Click here to participate: [www.edventures.com/dmlgiveaway](http://www.edventures.com/dmlgiveaway)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Attached to this newsletter is the Dr. Kenneth L. Riddle Foundation scholarship application for African American students pursuing a pharmacy degree, or a degree in music, dance, or theater. This scholarship is being offered to provide resources to students for expenses associated with higher learning. The deadline for the application is May 30, 2008.

## 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.ket.org/ged2002)

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

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

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

[Discovery Educator Network](#)

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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 [darrell.jee@mpbonline.org](mailto:darrell.jee@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).

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