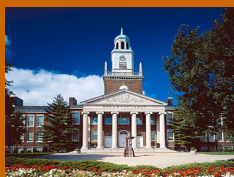


Buffalo State
College



July EDC Newsletter

by Peter A. Fuchs

Educational
Computing
Program
(EDC)
Monthly
Newsletter

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EDC Program Notes - From Dr. John Thompson

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Many EDC students are under a misunderstanding regarding teacher certification requirements. New York State teacher certification requirements are changing as of February 2, 2004. However, anyone who has a New York State provisional certificate before the new regulations take effect will be grandfathered under the present certification requirements. What does that mean? It means if you have your provisional certification now, you will not be affected by the new teacher certification regulations. You do not have to rush to finish your master's degree before February 2. The new teacher certification requirements will only affect those people who are getting their initial teaching certificate on or after February 2, 2004. Note: The term "initial" replaces the term "provisional" in the new scheme of things. From the SED website: "Applicants for a certificate prior to February 2, 2004 must meet current requirements. After this date, new certification requirements adopted by the Board of Regents will be in effect." (<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/nyscertreq.htm>)

See <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/reqeffective.htm> for further information on the new requirements. You can also contact Buffalo State's certification officer, Rita Zientek (878-4214 or 878-6121), if you have any teacher certification questions.

Will there be any impact on the EDC program because of the new certification requirements? Yes. Students who begin the EDC program starting summer 2004 will see a significant change in the program. Because of the new certification requirements, the EDC program will have to include 12 hours of subject content. For example, someone with an initial certification in exceptional education will have to take 12 hours in exceptional education as part of their master's program. The 12-hour requirement does not exist right now.

Because of the addition of 12 hours of content, the EDC program will see several other changes. First, the two electives (six hours) will be eliminated. Second, EDC 600 and 606 will be combined into one course - EDC 601. But any current EDC students will complete their programs under the current 33-hour program. EDC 600 and 606 will continue to be offered for a period of time so that all current EDC students will be able to take them. If you have any questions, contact Dr. John Thompson, EDC program coordinator.

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New WiFi Standard Approved - What's Next for Schools?



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On June 12th, [The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers \(IEEE\)](#) approved a new wireless standard called 802.11g. The new standard increases the allowable speed of wireless networks from the 11 Megabits per second (the old 802.11b standard) to 54 Mbps. That is almost five times faster, which will allow companies, and schools, to set up wireless networks reaching five times as many users as previously possible.

Immediately following the adoption of the “g” standard, a number of high-tech companies, including Hewlett Packard, announced new solutions that would allow extremely large files, such as movies, to be transmitted across wireless networks. And thankfully, the new “g” components will be backward -compatible with the “b” devices already present in many wireless networks, allowing schools and other companies to keep their existing infrastructure.

In light of the many state budget crises, it may be a while before schools jump on board with wireless networks, but they are cheaper to set up than wired networks –since there is very little fiber optic cable to install. Numerous districts have toyed with the idea for a while now, and this most recent speed boost will only wet their appetites further. I guess only time will tell.

Want more info? Click [here](#) and/or [here](#).

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Tools for Teachers: E-Mail Newsletters



For some people, receiving too much e-mail can be a hassle. They don't subscribe to anything

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online because they fear the repercussions in their e-mail. I used to be one of those people before I found out how useful e-mail newsletters can be. Now I subscribe to a number of them, and below you will find a few of the most useful newsletters for preK-12 educators.



Teacher Previews

Most teachers have at least heard of the benefits that come from using PBS in the classroom, but there is one tool associated with PBS that is little known to many educators. That tool is the [PBS Teacher Previews](#) - a free, weekly e-mail newsletter geared specifically to PreK-12 educators, which outlines the week's programming on PBS. It includes air times and dates, the age level the program is geared for, a summary of each program, and, most importantly for us Ed Tech people, an online companion to most shows.

The newsletter is broken down into categories based on the topic of the TV program or online activity. The make-up of the newsletter makes it very easy for a teacher at any grade level and in any subject area to find curriculum materials appropriate to his or her individual situation. And even more importantly, this newsletter can save you the time of having to navigate and sift through the vast array of resources available on the [PBS web site](#). Furthermore, you can customize the newsletter so that it is geared for your subject(s) and grade level(s) taught, and for your local PBS station's TV schedule.

If you are like me, you don't have the time needed to fully explore the PBS web site. With Teacher Previews, however, the web site becomes much more manageable.

If you would prefer to get just general audience information about PBS programs and web sites you can also subscribe to the free [PBS Previews e-mail newsletter](#).

eSCHOOL NEWS *Alert*

According to their slogan, *eSchool News Alert* is "The weekly newsletter for K-20 technology decision makers," and they are exactly right. If you have any influence over where technology money is spent, where technology money comes from, or just want to keep up to date on major issues in educational technology, you will want to subscribe to this newsletter, published by [eSchool News Online](#). You'll get updates on Ed Tech grants, the most up-to date technology news, information from eSchool News' partners, and a number of other special features delivered right to you inbox each week.

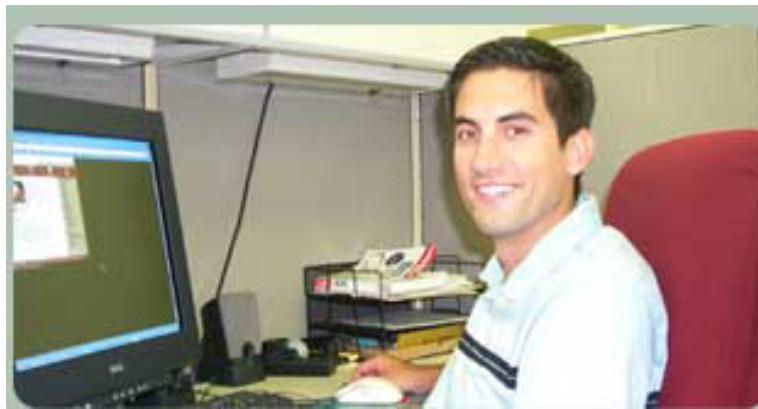
To view the current issue and subscribe, click [here](#) (you subscribe in the left-hand column under "Services")

SmartBrief is a free, daily newsletter published by the [Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development](#) that brings together education news from a wide variety of sources into one central location. The newsletter is split into six categories - including "Eye on Curriculum" and "Technology Solutions" - and each newsletter also contains a SmartQuote – a quote relating, in some way, to education. There is no better way to stay on top of issues relating to education than to receive them daily in your e-mail, and SmartBrief provides a wonderful way to achieve that.

Click [here](#) to sign-up and check out a sample issue of SmartBrief.

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EDC Student Spotlight - Scott Nadzan



A Bit About Scott:

Scott Nadzan joined the [CATE](#) team as a digital content specialist in the summer of 2001 after working as an assistant web developer at Buffalo State College. Before changing disciplines to become a web designer/developer, Scott was working as a classroom teacher.

As the Senior Web Designer, Scott is involved in hands-on creative work, directing design work for other team members and managing design projects. Scott summarizes his work as, "Professional, functional and aesthetically pleasing based upon classic design principles and visual communication principles." Scott specializes in graphic design, interface design, minor programming, and Flash design/animation.

Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Canisius College (1999) and a Master's of Science in Educational Computing from Buffalo State College (2002).

In His Own Words:

Personally, I really enjoyed the technical courses in the EDC program, such as, Internet for

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Educators, Multimedia in Education and Visual Basic for Educators. After each class session I couldn't wait to apply the skill or concept that I learned that night. In fact I remember several sleepless nights experimenting with web-based technologies.

I also enjoyed the constant collaboration with my EDC professors, especially Dr. Tony Nowakowski and Dr. John Thompson. With their guidance and my hard work, I developed newfound knowledge and confidence, a powerful combination.

Once I completed the EDC program I immediately became more versatile personally and professionally. My teaching style evolved from being creative and energetic to being a technical, dynamic, interactive, creative and interesting. The skills I acquired certainly separated me from other educators and I began to stand out in the crowd.

Moreover, since I graduated from BSC, my career opportunities multiplied exponentially. Before graduating from BSC I was searching for jobs as a classroom teacher. Once I had completed the program I was interviewed for the following positions: elementary/history teacher, technology trainer, web designer, web developer, graphic designer and digital content specialist.

As you can see, I went from looking for a job to deciding what job I would take.

I attribute my current and future career success to the EDC program and Dr. John Thompson. The knowledge and confidence I developed over two short years was amazing compared to my undergraduate experience.

Scott's Post EDC Successes:

Created and conducted technology-based professional development workshops for the Buffalo Public Schools and the Chicago City Schools.

Worked with the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society to develop their educational component of their [web site](#).

Lead designer for New York State's educational portal [NYLEARNS](#) - a standards-based, educational website that offers resources to students, parents, teachers, and administrators to enhance teaching and learning.

Participated in the Jane Goodall Institute Global Meeting in Amsterdam, Netherlands to discuss the development and progress of a [global initiative](#). Over the past two years he has been the lead technical designer/developer.

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Technology Around the Country



Tennessee

Students at Rucker Stewart Middle School in Gallatin are now able to read any of 500 available literature classics on their computers or PDA's thanks to a program offered by Palm Digital Media and Lightning Source. For only \$750 the students at Rucker Stewart can download and read as many books as they like.

From [Tennessean.com](#)

Florida

Believed to be the first of its kind, the Broward School District has set up what they have called "Virtual Counselor" on the district's web site. Starting this fall, parents will now be able to monitor their kid's attendance, report cards, standardized test scores, and overall progress in school.

From [The Miami Herald.com](#)

Texas

At the Plano Schools in Dallas, students will no longer need to pay for their lunches with bills and change because the school district is now utilizing an online system for lunch payments.

From [DallasNews.com](#)

Michigan

A state initiative, Freedom to Learn, which aims to provide all of the state's sixth graders with leased laptops and other wireless equipment, will require school districts to chip in \$25 per student to help cover the costs. The program will kick off in January.

From [Detroit Free Press](#)

Arizona

Five taxpayer-funded charter schools were approved this week by the state. There is one major difference between these schools and regular charter schools, though – these are virtual schools. Now these schools will lead Arizona in an education endeavor whereby children can get an education from their home computer.

From [azcentral.com](#)

Alaska

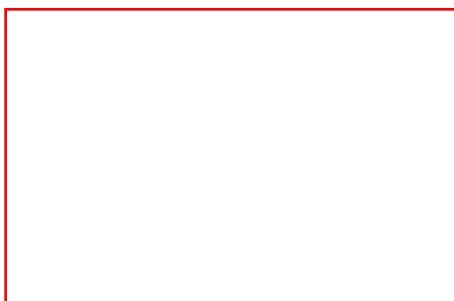
Beginning in the 2003-2004 school year students in the rural areas of Alaska will be able to learn in virtual schools. The program, created by four different school districts, will offer a full array of classes to students who were previously limited in what courses they could take.

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Funding Education - Show me the Money!



What possibilities could a White Board hold for your students? Do PDA's really help students learn?

If you have asked yourself any of these or similar questions, you have entered the realm of school funding. The real question is "Where is the money?" The answer is both simple and complex. It is simple because all you need to do is search for the money, either through your own school system, the Internet, or some other feasible location. It is complex because the process is not an easy one. There are applications and deadlines to worry about, and qualifications to meet – and that is only scratching the surface. Don't be discouraged, though. There is more than enough money to go around as long as you know where to look.

There are a number of ways that the Internet can help you in this task. As I mentioned earlier, e-mail newsletters can be a wonderful asset to any educator. There are two newsletters of choice when it comes to grant and funding opportunities.

[School Grants Newsletters](#)

[eSchool News Alert](#)

Both of these provide accurate and up-to-date information on available education funding.

Another online tool is the [K-12 School Technology Buyers Guide](#). Through this guide you can search for companies who are involved in Equipment Donations, School Fundraising, and Federal Grants, just to name a few categories. You would then need to contact the companies directly to inquire about the availability of funds.

Interested in alternative sources of funding? Check out what they are doing in [Dallas](#).

And who could forget the power of [Google](#)?

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