

North Pike Teacher Wins \$20,000 Classroom of Technology!!!

Joyce Deer, a math teacher from North Pike High School, won the InLine 21st Century Classroom Grant Contest held during the Mississippi Educational Computing Association Conference (MECA) held last week in Jackson. InLine's Education Division, held the Grant Contest during MECA to be able to give a classroom in Mississippi the technology needed to engage students and improve academic performance.

The 21st Century Classroom valued at over \$20,000 includes:

- Polycom Videoconferencing System
- InterWrite Mobi Wireless Collaboration System
- CPS Student Response System
- Lenovo Laptop Computer
- LCD Monitor and Projector

Ms. Deer's Grant application was chosen as the best of the entire state for several reasons:

1. She has a vision for specifically how to use all of the technology in the package
2. She has a passion for improving education
3. She already uses the technology she has
4. She is an excellent teacher
5. She has a desire to share the technology with other teachers in her school
6. She has a desire to tell teachers everywhere what she is able to do with the technology

Here are some of the things that Ms. Deer's class will be able to do with the technology:

According to Ms. Deer – "I have connections at three major colleges and many former students in the field of mathematics, and my hope is that I can video conference with them to provide real-life experiences for my students on future careers in math and other science-related fields. In addition, I want them to see math in action using virtual field trips... I would love to get a Wall Street broker to talk about the market, trends, how the exponential formulas can be used to compute interest and predict future market values! I want to talk to an actuarial mathematician who can explain why the young man in my room with the red sports car pays a LOT more insurance every month than the little girl with the 1990 Honda Accord - this will make SENSE to them and tie in. I want them to see a micro surgery on an infant and talk to the doctor who operated on that fetus still in the womb - have him explain how he was in another ROOM operating the controls and moving regular scissors while the robotic scissors cut the baby and operated. CAN YOU IMAGINE!! Even to talk to other students in other classes in other states would give them some idea of the sameness/differences in each other!

It is also exciting that Dr. Ben Cox, North Pike Superintendent, was presented the MECA Administrator of the Year Award. In Ms. Deer's Grant Application, she mentioned several times how Dr. Cox has fostered an environment where teachers are expected to use technology effectively in keeping our students interested and helping them achieve more. "My superintendent is a strong technology advocate and is limited not in vision but in funds."

In closing, Ms. Deer is very talented, and North Pike is fortunate to have her touching the lives of our students. As she quoted from R. Kelly in her Grant Application, ""If I can see it then I can do it, if I just believe it, there's nothing to it...I believe I can fly!"" I NEED my students to believe they can fly, and the technology that you will provide can help me inspire them to fly!"

Congratulations Ms. Deer and Dr. Cox. Keep up the good work.

Winning Application (part 1 of 3)

School District: North Pike School District

School: North Pike HS

Grade/Subject: 9-12

Address: 1022 Jaguar Trail

City: Summit

State: MS

Zip Code: 39648

Narrative Question 1: I teach Algebra I, PreCal/Trig, Advanced Math/Stats and Web Page Design and I am the “un-official” technology person for most of the other teachers in my district who call me - I usually have some answers that can help them. My own students will, of course, have access, and I would like to involve any teacher who is interested (I am pushy enough to make sure they ALL are interested if given half of a chance!)

I have connections at three major colleges and many former students in the field of mathematics, and my hope is that I can video conference with them to provide real-life experiences for my students on future careers in math and other science-related fields. In addition, I want them to see math in action using virtual field trips, and I want them to talk to doctors using math for the new microsurgeries on babies at a pediatric hospital, since this is all ratios, proportions, translations, etc. I am eager to learn about new resources from any of you, who are wiser at this than I am right now!

Narrative Question 2: We have a T1 line and a strong connection. My superintendent is a strong technology advocate and is limited not in vision but in funds. Students are country students, most who have never been outside their little corner of Mississippi. They don't have dreams yet, because they are unaware of the huge possibilities that exist for them. To dream big, they have to see the dream, and they haven't. I need them to see what an education can REALLY do for them, and why that makes more sense than working offshore or being a mechanic (because that is all they know).

I have technology - Dr. Cox gets me what I ask for within reason. BUT it is not just me - all of our teachers need to see the possibilities too. Many are still in the rut of standing in front of the classroom, holding a book and lecturing.

Funding in Mississippi, as in the whole country, is drying up. It is a bad time for Mississippi and the country. Students who are not equipped for the future will not make it out....I HAVE to give them possibilities, and with little or no money for technology, students will not enjoy the educational process and will not see a future for themselves with advanced education. We compete with cell phones, nintendos, playstations, Ipods etc for their attention, and right now education is losing, I am afraid.

To quote R. Kelly: “If I can see it then I can do it, if I just believe it, there's nothing to it....I believe I can fly!” I NEED my students to believe they can fly, and the technology that you will provide can help me inspire them to fly!

Winning Application (part 2 of 3)

Narrative Question 3: I will use the Polycom system for distance learning. I can connect to other schools and students, to colleges and businesses who use the concepts we talk about daily. For example, in precalculus when we talk about logs and exponentials, I would love to get a Wall Street broker to talk about the market, trends, how the exponential formulas can be used to compute interest and predict future market values! My little country kids, even the bright ones, have never talked to a New York Wall Street broker - maybe I CAN turn someone on to the fact that math IS IMPORTANT in our lives and affects us. I want to talk to an actuarial mathematician who can explain why the young man in my room with the red sports car pays a LOT more insurance every month than the little girl with the 1990 Honda Accord - this will make SENSE to them and tie in. I want them to see a micro surgery on an infant and talk to the doctor who operated on that fetus still in the womb - have him explain how he was in another ROOM operating the controls and moving regular scissors while the robotic scissors cut the baby and operated. CAN YOU IMAGINE!! I barely can and I am a little more wordly than these kids are! Even to talk to other students in other classes in other states would give them some idea of the sameness/differences in each other!

I am already using the assessment system and I would share my materials with other teachers in my department to help all of my fellow teachers. I use the CPS system for assessment for state tests - without passing the state tests, a student cannot graduate in Mississippi. Before I can show them the endless possibilities after graduation I have to get them to GRADUATE first!! The Mobi and CPS help with that. I spoke at MECA yesterday about the clickers and how I used them - attendance is the LEAST thing but that is a good thing too. To assess student learning at any given moment, to keep their attention in class, and to keep them participating is priceless.

Of course, to do all of this, the laptop, projector and monitor are necessary tools - so I would be grateful to have those included in my package:-)

Narrative Question 4: Dr Cox is amazing!! He tries to get us whatever we want within budget limitations, and he buys InLine products, so you are already aware of what we have in the district. I envision this project as the "model classroom" where I can demonstrate, do staff developments, invite other schools to see (and show off my stuff!), and make them see the possibilities. Many of them never make it to conferences so I can show them what is available. Many of our teachers have a smart pad, but not all at the high school use them. I want to bombard them with all they can do with this to make education more fun - I can even approach it as making their life more easy because it does! So this will compliment what we are doing already by generating interest in other teachers to start using this.

The status of similar technology is difficult to say. There is a little money, but I have been told pending new budget cuts, everything is on hold. It is NOT happening in Mississippi right now! Who knows - I can't answer that.

Narrative Question 5: Joyce Deer - highly proficient (software, hardware and networking) but could use a little "extra" in the neat tricks I haven't found yet with the products. Resume online at <http://nphs.jdeer.com/jdresume.swf>

Rhonda Travis - French teacher - works with Mississippi Virtual Public School also and teaches distance learning French through MS PBS. Highly proficient in software, knows most hardware but doesn't work with it a lot. Easily trainable.

Winning Application (part 3 of 3)

Erin Fortenberry - Science - highly proficient - has used Interwrite pad. Strong teacher who is a leader and works well with others.

Narrative Question 6: I intend to present at conferences, blog about my experiences and in general, drive everyone crazy talking about all my "stuff"! I also am lead peer coach (in charge of all teachers and students) at Mississippi Virtual Public School and as such, I have almost the whole state of Mississippi that has to listen to me! I have 87 teachers I can blog to DAILY in my daily communications about MVPS and tell about the great things I did that day ...and they have to listen. My enthusiasm will be contagious! I also work for ELearning in Mississippi teaching online, so every 6 weeks I run across about 20-25 more teachers...most trying to be better teachers or they would not be taking the Elearning class. So I have access to lots of people! I also work with teachers in other states as I teach for EDC, so I can really spread the word!

In addition, North Pike purchases a full page in the Enterprise Journal every month, and you can be SURE that this will be the topic of one of those pages, and the EJ will do a spread about this also, so there will be publicity. I am the web page master for the North Pike web page (<http://npsd.k12.ms.us>) so you can be sure there will be stories there also. With all of this, many people can see what we are doing and they will want to do similar things at their school also.

I am so flexible and easy to work with - I am open to ANY suggestions I have not thought of that you want to make here.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with you - I hope you will consider my application.