



IDAHO TEACHERS CAN NOW APPLY FOR \$75,000 IN GRANTS FROM QWEST

Popular Classroom Technology Program Enters its Fourth Year

BOISE, Oct. 11, 2007 – The Idaho State Department of Education is inviting K-12 teachers from throughout Idaho to apply for \$75,000 in grants from the Qwest Foundation. The purpose of the grants is to fund innovative uses of technology in the classroom to improve student achievement.

This will be the fourth year Idaho teachers will receive the grants, which have funded projects ranging from robotics to rocketry to improving fitness. More than 300 teachers from across the state have applied in the previous three years, and the total amount awarded will reach \$250,000 after this year's winners are selected. A summary of the 11 grants awarded last year follows below.

"This program is a great way to encourage more innovation in the classroom," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. "I am excited to continue partnering with Qwest on this program. It is a great example of how the business community can become more involved in public education and make a difference for Idaho's students."

"We have been very impressed with the creativity and overall excellence of the grant recipients over the past few years," said Jim Schmit, Qwest's president for Idaho. "Funding this program is a great way for Qwest to help teachers and make a positive difference in the education of Idaho students."

Teachers have until November 16, 2007, to apply for the grants, which will be awarded early next year. Teachers can obtain an application form online at www.sde.idaho.gov/EducatorResources/. The State Department of Education also will send information directly to schools and districts across the state.

The grant program began after a statewide evaluation of technology in public schools was completed in 2003. The evaluation suggested that many Idaho teachers had mastered the basics of using technology, but needed support in integrating technology

in the curriculum. In part because of the program's success in Idaho, Qwest is now partnering with state education departments in the 13 other states in its service territory on similar teacher grant programs.

Funding the grants fits with the Qwest Foundation's mission of supporting K-12 education programs that generate high-impact results and lasting value for the future.

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Winners of Idaho Teacher Technology Grants, 2006-2007

Aberdeen: Wayne Millet, Aberdeen High School
Project: Music Composition Recording Technology
Music composition and recording software and equipment

Bliss: Andrea Robbins, Bliss School
Project: Is Our Water Clean?
Water quality testing probes and other equipment

Boise: Paul Olson, West Junior High School
Project: Keyboard/Syntesizer Lab
Keyboards and related software and equipment

Carey: Lee Pace, Carey School
Project: Quizdom Audience Response Units

Hand-held student response system

Idaho Falls: Stephen Cossel, Skyline High School

Project: Interactive T1 Navigator System

Networked calculator system

Lewiston: Theresa DuChemin, Centennial Elementary School

Project: Centennial Broadcast System

Equipment for student news broadcasts

Pinehurst: Marcelle Barrett, Pinehurst Elementary

Project: Digital Friends

Digital cameras and scanners

Pocatello: Christina Melancon, GATE Way Center

Project: Discovery Education Unitedstreaming

Subscription to online library

Rexburg: Patricia Parker, Lyman Elementary School

Project: Idaho on the Go

GPS units for geography class

Salmon: Jeremy Burgess and Dr. Terry Magoon, Salmon High School

Project: Veterans History Project

Equipment to allow students to create submissions for nationwide project

Sandpoint: Carol McCleod, Lake Pend Oreille Alternative High School

Project: Immersion Language Lab

Portable "Alpha Smarts" laptops