



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Western Reserve Public Media and Mahoning County ESC Create New Training Opportunities for Educators

Entities enter new collaborative agreement for professional development

KENT — Nov. 26, 2008 — Western Reserve Educational Services (a service of Western Reserve Public Media) and Mahoning County ESC have announced a new collaborative agreement. The two organizations will work together to provide professional development for educators in all schools in Mahoning County and Columbiana Exempted Village schools.

The new arrangement will enable educators to receive technology training via weekly sessions delivered and developed collaboratively by staff from both organizations. They can now receive on-site professional development at their schools or attend weekly professional development sessions to be held in the computer training lab at Mahoning County ESC. Examples of the training topics that will be available to educators include Smart Board technology, digital photography and video editing.

This is the first such countywide collaboration for Western Reserve Educational Services. “In these trying financial times, our districts need even more assistance in integrating technology to improve student success,” said Jeff Good, Western Reserve Educational Services director of education. “We are fortunate to have the opportunity to team up with Mahoning County ESC and share in their vision to make this opportunity a reality.”

Rich Denaman, superintendent of Mahoning County ESC, believes the new service will have a positive long-term effect that will serve as a model for other educational entities. “Our goal is for improved professional development service by way of quality and available quantity to our customer service districts,” he said. “Ultimately, this will eliminate duplication of effort on behalf of both organizations, which will result in cost savings.”

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About Mahoning County ESC

The Mahoning County Educational Service Center is one of 58 current ESCs that provide a wide variety of services to the school districts of Ohio. The MCEESC customers currently include 15 districts with over 28,000 students, 1,600 staff members as well as families, communities, boards of education and school district administrators. One major focus is professional development with trainings from 2007 to 2008 totaling 889 sessions and involving 18,133 participants.

About Western Reserve Educational Services

Western Reserve Educational Services, a service of Western Reserve Public Media, is funded by the State of Ohio through eTech Ohio and serves K-12 students and educators in eight Ohio counties (Carroll, Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne). This includes 92 public school districts and 134 nonpublic schools, 256,700 students and over 21,000 educators. For over 30 years, Western Reserve Educational Services has been training teachers to use the latest educational technologies in their classrooms. Educators also use the station's instructional television programming; our locally produced multimedia curriculum projects to help students prepare for and pass Ohio's proficiency tests; and our in-school technology and instructional television consultation services.

In the 2007-08 school year, Western Reserve Educational Services' Professional Development Center staff of educational technology consultants delivered 233 technology workshops to 2,108 educators and presented 59 workshops on the integration of our multimedia curriculum kits to 916 teachers. In all, we provided 5,265 contact hours with educators and over 6,250 hours of consultation services.

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