

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 5, 2002

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Melinda Crowley

SUBJECT: Future Staff Development Opportunities

CC: District Instructional Technology Supervisors, District Curriculum Supervisors, Executive Directors of FASA and FLA and President of FCITL.

We have had a great opportunity presented to the Bureau of Educational Technology (BET) that should enhance our ability to support your school district. The FIRNTEC program achieved its original goals of assisting school districts with the network implementation and user access. Many of FIRN's employees that were instructional technology and curriculum oriented have joined our new initiative for improved school district support. The new positions are federally funded and allow BET to pursue the concepts of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation by assisting with educational technology integration. Hence, the team is known as Educational Technology Integrators. For a time we were using the name BET Consultants, but ETI better explains their role.

The ETI team spent their first few months with the Bureau of Educational Technology assisting on the survey of educational technology projects across the state. This was a large undertaking and I would like to thank all of you who took the time from your busy schedules to gather this vital information about the state of educational technology in Florida. Dr. Wendy Cullar is compiling the results of this survey. This snapshot of where we are now will be essential as we develop the plan to meet our educational technology needs under the guidance of Secretary Horne and our new Chief Technology Officer, Ruben Lopez.

Even though the ETI team members live in different parts of the state, they are officially "housed" at the Florida Center for Instructional Technology (FCIT) at the University of South Florida (USF). The decision to locate the ETI team members at a college of education was taken in response to the newly formed team's mission under the No Child Left Behind legislation.

The team is responsible to BET and reports to Claude Shipley, Director of Technology Integration and E-Rate, (850-488-3047) Claude.Shipley@fldoe.org, they will be working collaboratively with Dr. Ann Barron and Dr. Roy Winkelman at USF and FCIT-USF respectively. This new relationship will provide a more effective means to assist the teachers around the state with the integration of educational technology into teacher lesson plans, daily curriculum plus reduce a teacher's administrative workload.

The mission of the ETI team is now focused upon integrating educational technology in the curriculum under the NCLB federal legislation. One of the main focuses of the new ETI team will be to assist in the development of a statewide web-based Clearinghouse of educational resources. The goal of the Clearinghouse is to provide teachers around the state, with easily accessible links to sources of useful information to help assist them with the integration of technology into the curriculum.

We will keep you informed of the training and programs with which the ETI team will be involved. They are currently undergoing their own staff development to ensure their skills match our expectations. I hope you will feel that this new team with an exciting, district focused vision can assist your organization. Each of them will be serving a regional area for various specific needs. However, they will also be providing specific duties and assistance to districts throughout the state. Because of the nature of their jobs, you may be seeing and hearing from any one of the ETI team members as they execute their assigned duties in support of school districts in any given part of the state.

We at the Bureau of Educational Technology, teamed with the Florida Center for Instructional Technology (FCIT) at USF, look forward to continuing to serve Florida's teachers. Our goal is to provide assistance to all teachers and administrators in their endeavors to provide a quality education focused on the requisite 21st century workforce skills for our students.