

### **Teachers urged to complete 'Integrating Resources' surveys**

Teachers, if you or your students have not yet completed an "Integrating Resources" survey, Aurora Project Evaluator Rebecca Zittle urges you to do so now.

"We would appreciate hearing from more of you," Zittle says. "Your feedback is so important to capture, after all the hard work that all of you have done."

Zittle says teachers can easily fill out a survey by scrolling to the bottom of ALCA's homepage and clicking on "Year 6 2002-03 Evaluation Activities." The access key username is *teacher* and the password is *teacher*. Students should also fill out a survey (for either grades 1-5 or grades 6-12) using the access key username *student* and password *student*. If

teachers prefer paper surveys, a Word version is available.

After teachers use an Aurora activity or tool with their students, they are encouraged to fill out a Demographic Survey. It is necessary to fill this out only once for each group of students with whom the teacher uses Aurora. The generated information is important to the US Department of Education, which funded the Aurora Project.

Although on-line surveys are preferred, Zittle says teachers can send completed paper surveys (via their facilitators) to the October 22 board meeting, or the completed surveys can be faxed to Zittle at 580- 353- 2168.

### **ALCA offers two distinctly different 'Help' options**

The Aurora Learning Community provides users two helpful methods for using the system and completing particular tasks. These include the "Help" option (located on the top toolbar) and "How-to" aids with graphics. Aurora Project Director Gary Sackett says that the "How-to" aids will be especially helpful, since graphics accompany the step-by-step procedures of how to use ALCA's innovative and varied features.

### **Board Meeting October 22**

Aurora Board members are reminded that the October Board meeting will be held at Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City, on Tuesday, October 22 at 9:30 a.m.

## Portfolios hailed as extraordinary ALCA feature

Among the numerous innovative ALCA features, one of the latest is Portfolios, which gives teachers, students, and other users a method of showcasing their most significant work for others to view.

The thing that makes Portfolios so extraordinary is that a user can keep samples of work and then add on more and more

pages, thus creating a showcase of images, text, files, forms, graphs, or anything else which captures his or her talent in and across grade levels, subject areas, projects, etc.

These showcases can then be emailed to others or bookmarked for others to view. They may also be displayed on the ALCA site.

## Complete Explanations of How to Use Data Result Features

Complete, accurate examples (with graphics) of how to enter data results in forms, how to share the data, and how to find and use the data table can be found through a Search for "Filling Out a Form Using an Access Key" - file, "Publishing Data Using Access Keys" - file, and "ALCA Data Table" - file.

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Since Aurora's inception, Dr. Don Wilson (standing), Aurora's Higher Education Facilitator, has expressed to Aurora board members the importance of providing step-by-step instructions for how to use the varied features of the ALCA system.