

Collaboration of ALCA with other projects proves successful

Because of shared ideas and similar visions, many other Technology Innovation Challenge Grant (TICG) projects are very closely connected with Aurora and the Aurora Learning Community (ALCA). (To read about the TICG program, click on <http://www.ed.gov/Technology/challenge/>. Go to Funded Projects and look at the different awardees. Peruse the 1997 winners to read about the Aurora Project, among others.)

Several TICG projects and other Department of Education programs have collaborated with ALCA and have set up their own ALCA communities. Thus, they have become part of a vast e-learning community with thousands of resources and links to even more.

Key personnel and projects already featured in previous editions of ALCA's quarterly newsletter, **AURORA HighLIGHTS**, are William Bray and American Indian Research and Development (AIRD) <http://www.aird.to/>; Pat Abrego and Project Millennium <http://www.united.isd.tenet.edu/instruction/millennium/> of Laredo, Texas; Paul Tisdell and San Antonio Technology in Education Consortium (SATEC) <http://satec.saisd.net/>; and Mike Workman and Technology in Nature at Sanger (TINS) <http://www.sanger.k12.ca.us/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Sanger> of Sanger, California.

Plans are being made for October's **HighLIGHTS** to include articles on Region 19 of the El Paso Public Schools; the Oklahoma City Public Schools' Gear Up program, and Oklahoma Achievement Through Collaboration and Technology Support (OK-ACTS) <http://www.okea.org/News/OKACTS.htm>, a project which will train 800 head principals and superintendents in the state of Oklahoma.

ALCA developer's *My Desk* area, with various features and resources.

The screenshot displays the ALCA developer's 'My Desk' interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: Home Page, Resource Folders (with a right-pointing arrow), Classes, Talk, Portfolio Pages, Calendar, Notifications, and Preferences. Below the menu is a blue banner with the text 'Exam web link'. The main content area is titled 'COMMUNITY | MY DESK | SEARCH | HELP | LOGOUT' and 'My Desk / Resource Folders'. It features a toolbar with buttons for 'Access', 'Bookmark', 'File', 'Folder', 'Form', 'Lesson', 'Location', and 'Portfolio'. Below this toolbar are buttons for 'Presentation', 'Procedure', 'Rubric', and 'Text'. The main workspace contains five folder icons, each with an upward arrow and a trash can icon. The folders are labeled: 'Bookmarks', 'Evaluation Form and Access Key', 'Images', 'Imported Lessons', and 'Presentations'.



During a workshop at South-western Oklahoma State University, two Western Oklahoma teachers, LaDonna Westfahl, of Okeene, and Joy Justus, of Fargo, work together creating lessons.

ALCA Developers Reminded to Check Their Lessons

Teachers, you can find all of the lessons that you created for the Aurora Project. After logging in at the ALCA site, you will be at your desktop. Then you simply click on Resource Folders. All the lessons you created are in an Imported Lessons folder that you can open with a click. These are the lessons that were imported to ALCA's new website from the old one (where you created them.)

When you open your lesson by clicking on it, you will find the lesson and all the files, forms, rubrics, etc. that you created to go with the lesson. After you find the lesson, please check to see if it has been edited and turned green. **It should not be made public for others to see unless it has been edited.** The editors will first check to see if the files open, if the lesson is complete, if all grammar is correct, etc. After the lessons are green and made public, anyone can find the

lesson by clicking Search and typing in your name or key words from the lesson's title or description.

Something to note about the lessons: if you want them and the files, forms, rubrics, etc. kept in a list rather than as icons, please note the gray-colored rectangle above the Portfolio tab on the right. The rectangle shows two sides, the left with squares and the right side with lines. Check both sides to see which you prefer. (Most teachers seem to prefer that their lessons be displayed as icons.)

One other very important note: you may create as many on-line lessons as you wish. Simply click on the Lessons tab in your Resource Folders and begin. Click on Presentations or Files or Forms, etc. to go along with your lesson. Then attach them (in the proper place) to your lesson with the plus signs (or pencils).

Administrators encouraged to utilize trainers' expertise

Administrators for all communities, both educational and non-educational, should be aware that ALCA certified trainers will be glad to come to your city to conduct training sessions.

ALCA trainers could help you customize your community's website, setting up the sidebar options and all other features in a manner that you feel is appropriate for your community.

Trainers will demonstrate all features that administrators would like to see,

including how to set up organizations, classes, courses, etc.; how to manage portfolios; how to utilize the message board; how to maintain security; how to import/export data; how to create innovative lessons; etc.

Additionally, trainers would answer such questions as "What is an access key?", "Who are the moderators and what do they do?" and "How does one attach a resource (such as a web address to another resource?"



No, the trainers didn't learn ballet during the training session!

Although it may look as though Wendy Jantzen, from Enid, Oklahoma, and Randy Averso, with Oklahoma ACTS, are practicing the pirouette, the reality is that they are "framing" a picture, one of the numerous tasks taught at the July ALCA trainers' workshop.