Rosenberg Elementary Selected as Pilot for Digital Network

The Digital Network (TDN) has announced implementation of its Education Application at Rosenberg Elementary School of Galveston Independent School District.

Rosenberg First School in Houston-Galveston to use Datacasting Broadcast System

TDN has outfitted Rosenberg Elementary with its WaveRyder content management/datacasting receiver, a technology that will make the school the first in the Houston-Galveston area to utilize this datacasting broadcast system, which gives teachers the ability to receive educational content transmitted by KUHT, HoustonPBS.

TDN is supplying Rosenberg Elementary with KERA's digital pre-K-12 educational library plus professional development and health literacy content, all correlated to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) database.

Rosenberg Elementary is one of UTMB's community partners, so the university is eager to assist the school. Rosenberg School, through a recent bond issue, received six desktop student computers and one LCD projector per classroom. The school's principal, Billie Rinaldi, is excited about this opportunity to use the new digital network application along with the new classroom technology to improve student learning outcomes.

"It is well-known that children retain more when presented with both visual and auditory material," Rinaldi said. "We are thrilled to incorporate video-based educational content that is tied to TEKS to help our students achieve their potential."

Simple to navigate, TDN's Education Application offers significant support to teachers as they create their lesson plans. A teacher can review the digital KERA content library using a variety of search profiles, from TEKS, to grade, to subject or keyword. In addition to the video educational material, supporting materials such as teaching guides, student workbooks, and/or Web site links are also packaged with the video-based content. The selected material can then be displayed in classrooms via LCD projection or individual student computer stations.

The UTMB Telehealth Center has worked with KERA for two years developing healthcare applications for datacasting. Its efforts will support Rosenberg faculty in the areas of health literacy and health education. Using TDN's datacasting technology, UTMB will provide Web-based instructional content for the school nurses to help them maintain their certification. KERA is also making available its award-winning Ready for Life parent training program for Rosenberg teachers to use with parents of children ages 3 and 4 enrolled in its new pre-kindergarten program. The Galveston Independent School District has fully endorsed Rosenberg's role in this model school-year program.

"This pilot is a great example of the impact a collaboration - in this case among a university, public broadcasting and a commercial datacasting company - can have in bringing cutting edge technology to schools," said Deanna Collingwood, KERA's vice president for Grants & Alliances.

HETCAT's Coastal Bend Region is funding this initial program with Rosenberg School as part of its mission to fund projects for continuing professional education, community health promotion or education as well as health professional training.

TDN, based in Dallas, is a Distributed Application Network company that manages the time-shifted distribution of large, complex digital files to multiple locations. The company's solution utilizes the idle spectrum - or opportunistic bandwidth - available during normal HDTV broadcasting. TDN's service enables a school district to have access to near broadcast-quality state standards-linked videos as
well as teaching aids all in a single digital envelop. TDN is funded by 33 Western U.S. public television stations.

Bo Bernard, CEO of The Digital Network, commented, "Teachers in today's world need to bring the digital world into their classrooms so that students can relate to their classroom materials in the same way as they do to the digital world around them outside of school. We are pleased to work with Rosenberg Elementary to enrich their students learning opportunities, their parents understanding of childhood development as well as their staff and teachers' professional development and health literacy.