



PRESS RELEASE

Gadsden County Schools Receive Technology Grant from EETT

June 7, 2006

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Gadsden County Schools recently received nearly one million dollars that will be used not just to narrow but close the digital divide. \$911,451 was awarded to the Gadsden County School system by the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Program. This grant will be used to enhance student achievement through the integration of laptop computers as a tool for teaching and learning in the classroom. The grant is sponsored by the Florida Department of Education.

Leveraging Laptops: Effective Models for Enhancing Student Achievement is an initiative aimed at transforming Gadsden County Schools into the states premier district for utilizing technology in order to prepare students for a future economy that will rely heavily on technology and innovation. Among other strategies, this goal will be achieved by providing eighth grade students and their teachers with laptop computers and SMART boards in addition to providing schools and teachers with technical assistance and professional development for integrating technology into their curriculum and instruction.

Gadsden County Schools is committed to ensuring that all teachers and students have the tools available to help them acquire the academic and technological skills required in the No Child Left Behind legislation from the U.S. Department of Education.

Through this laptop initiative, Gadsden County's eighth grade students will be afforded great opportunities to help them achieve by leveraging the playing field in an effort to help close the achievement gap for our students. These laptops will expand our students' academic experience beyond the four walls of the classroom, said Superintendent Reginald James.

Dr. Sonja Bridges, Media & Technology Coordinator for the Gadsden County School District, said that being afforded an opportunity to put laptops in the hands of so many students is phenomenal. Dr. Bridges said, the entire school district and community is ecstatic about receiving the nearly one million dollar grant and the endless possibilities it affords the students of Gadsden County.

TCC will offer professional development services to provide certificates for completed training, Technology Integration courses, and on-site and on-line training. The College will also form a Technology Professional Development Team composed of college faculty to assist in training and mentoring eighth grade teachers in Gadsden County on computer-based learning.

TCC is extremely excited to partner with our friends in Gadsden County in an effort to raise the technological awareness of its student population, said TCC President Bill Law. We have made a significant investment in Gadsden County and we are committed to supporting them as they continue to produce one success story after another.

Meanwhile, Apple Computers will supply iBook laptops, software and accessories which will be procured for distribution to the students and teachers.

Gadsden County Schools, Apple Computer, Inc., TCC and other organizations are determined to help Tame the Cat, and dramatically alter the future for the children of Gadsden County. The citizens of Gadsden County have rallied together to encourage students to pass the FCAT. The EETT Leveraging Laptops grant initiative will play a vital role in seeing this become a reality.

The full implementation of the initiative will begin when the 2006-07 school year kicks off in August.



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