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For immediate release

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IBM Announces New \$1.5 Million Grant To Improve Teacher Training in Vermont

IBM, Vermont Dept. Of Education, University of Vermont and Vermont State Colleges to launch collaborative to improve teacher education and professional development statewide.

ESSEX JUNCTION, VT - August 22, 2002 – IBM today announced a \$1.5 million grant program designed to deliver higher-quality training and resources for Vermont teachers by creating a first-of-its-kind collaboration between teacher education programs and the public schools they serve.

Working through the Vermont Public Education Partnership, consisting of the Vermont Department of Education, the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges, the IBM grant will unite a number of state initiatives through IBM Learning Village -- new Web-based educational tools designed to drive higher student achievement. The grant will ultimately impact both student and veteran teachers across the state.

The Vermont grant is part of a \$15 million Reinventing Education grant program announced today, the third round of such grants announced by IBM since 1994. Vermont was awarded \$2 million from the first IBM school reform grants to create Standards Into Action, a set of online tools to help teachers connect Vermont's education standards to classroom practice. The grants announced today will pave the way for teachers at more than 20 leading schools of education in nine states to receive new levels of quality training and professional development that help meet the requirements of the President's "No Child Left Behind Act."



"For nearly a decade, IBM has dedicated both its expertise and technical resources to help crack some of the toughest problems facing our public schools. This latest grant opens a new dimension in that quest," said Hank Geipel, IBM Burlington senior location executive. "It's obvious that the schools have little chance of achieving at world-class levels if we can't equip and sustain a world-class teaching force. This grant will help our students by helping their teachers -- with better training, professional development and technology deployment for the people we're asking to lead in every classroom."

Using IBM Learning Village -- created during the first round of Reinventing Education grants -- teachers can build and share standards-based lesson plans, implement proven instructional practices and strategies, and seek answers from peers and teacher educators in other institutions.

"The Department of Education is thrilled to be continuing its long-standing partnership with IBM," said Vermont Education Commissioner Ray McNulty. "Reinventing Education Grant funding will allow the state to strengthen and expand several initiatives to improve teacher professional development. In particular, the Learning Village tools will be integral in the state's efforts to promote connectivity and intradisciplinary professional support for educators throughout the state."

Students in teacher training programs at UVM, Castleton, Lyndon and Johnson State Colleges will use IBM Learning Village tools integrated into their methods and field-based courses, including the use of electronic portfolios with video to document and demonstrate their learning. These portfolios will follow teachers throughout their careers, especially for those who wish to receive National Board Certification.

For existing teachers, IBM Learning Village tools will become integral to the Vermont Math Initiative, which works with classroom teachers to support rigorous math content, effective teaching practices, classroom-related research and evolving leadership. Current and student teachers will be linked together through the tools as part of the Teacher Quality Networks mentoring project already under way.



“This project provides an opportunity to work with our partners in Vermont to further develop the ways that UVM is preparing educators to integrate technology in their practice, their research, and their own planning for lifelong learning and professional growth,” said Jill Tarule, Dean of the College of Education and Social Services at UVM.

"RE-3 will help build a technological infrastructure to address state education priorities," said Karrin Wilks, Vice President for Academic and Strategic Planning for the Vermont State Colleges. "All five of our Vermont State Colleges have a critical role in educator quality, and we're looking forward to strengthening our public education partnership through this grant."

The Reinventing Education grant team -- the state Department of Education, UVM and the state colleges -- will receive approximately \$1.5 million in resources from IBM in the form of research and technical expertise, technology, and cash. Phase one helps each partner build and deploy a common Web-based platform to support new instructional practices and strategies.

Expanding the Reach of Reinventing Education

Since 1994, Reinventing Education has been the centerpiece of IBM's global commitment to educational improvement, supporting school reform efforts and higher student achievement through the development of innovative technology solutions.

An independent evaluation conducted by the Education Development Center, Inc. in 2001, found Reinventing Education to have "a significant" positive effect on student achievement" and documented "substantial gains in performance for students in grades 7 - 11 as a result of Reinventing Education solutions breaking down significant barriers to high academic achievement.

For more information on IBM's Reinventing Education program, visit <http://www.ibm.com/ibm/ibmgives>.