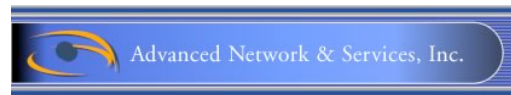


PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

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U.S. Department of Education
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New Digital Film Screening Room for International Education and Understanding: MovingVoices

<http://www.earn.org/movingvoices>

New York, March 31, 2004. iEARN, the International Education and Resource Network, has announced the launch of **MovingVoices**, a new international education initiative to enable students in 16 countries and four US states to create the first educational digital films for use in classrooms everywhere to improve teaching, learning, and global cultural awareness. The innovative project is being co-developed with the US-based Interactive FrameWorks, Inc.

The pilot project brings together middle-school teachers and students from Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Canada, Egypt, India, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and the United States using the Internet. Expanding participation across the U.S. and worldwide is anticipated in September 2004.

During a nine-week online course, teachers will start by working in collaborative online sessions to help their students plan and produce original two-minute digital films suitable for distribution via the World Wide Web. As they participate in a collaborative community, teachers will demonstrate how the filmmaking process and digital technologies can advance specific learning objectives and enrich professional development. Students will gain filmmaking, digital technologies and collaboration skills identified as necessary to succeed in the global economy of

the 21st century. Teachers have the opportunity to advance specific curriculum objectives.

Support for the first-year pilot is being provided by the US Department of Education as part of its “Friendship Through Education” program (www.friendshipthrougheducation.org), Advanced Network & Services (<http://www.advanced.org/>), and the Longview Foundation. In-kind support is also being provided by Apple-Malaysia and JVC (Victor Company of Japan Limited), through their regional subsidiaries around the world. JVC (www.jvc.com) is supplying digital video cameras to participating schools. Apple-Malaysia has equipped schools in Malaysia with Macintosh computers and cameras to enable them to use digital imaging, movie editing and Internet-based technologies. The Department of International and Transcultural Studies of Teachers College, Columbia University, is providing expertise in multi-lingual applications and will examine emerging literacies and the use of technology as filmmaking is integrated into the classroom.

“For the first time the power of the Internet is being used to create a cross-cultural and multilingual digital video educational production resource and library for teachers to use in their classrooms--“ noted Dr. Edwin H. Gragert, Executive Director of iEARN-USA. “These videos will be available for download on demand by students and teachers for use in their classrooms—regardless of where in the world they are.”

“MovingVoices represents another opportunity for international collaboration among students and teachers using digital media that invites creativity and responsibility for a new vision and understanding of the 21st century world,” notes Ray Myers of the Office of Technology at the U.S. Department of Education.

The first year of the program will:

- create a first-of-its-kind online educational repository of student-produced short-form films for use by teachers and students around the world;
- demonstrate how students can harness the power of digital storytelling to enhance education and improve cultural awareness;
- * result in an online professional development course, training educators how to integrate digital movie production into their classrooms (see <http://courses.iearn.org/movingvoices/orientation/>)
- produce course contents, “how-to” manual ,and sample videos for distribution via CD ROM to schools throughout the world in October 2004;
- showcase student presentations and accompanying resources at major international education and 21st century literacy conferences, including the 2004 iEARN International Conference in Slovakia.

The MovingVoices project is a strategic response to build and strengthen mutual understanding vital to global peace and prosperity in today's multi-cultural,

economically interdependent world. MovingVoices videos will be multi-lingual with English subtitles, where necessary. The project seeks to address the need among students worldwide for 21st century skills, including comfort with digital technologies, cross-cultural familiarity, teamwork and collaborations, and self-esteem and confidence knowing that their work is being used in schools across the country and around the world. It is an outgrowth of iEARN's global educational community which consists of 1 million students and 20,000 teachers in 109 countries.

The initial student-produced digital MovingVoices will be showcased at the July 2004 iEARN International Conference in Kosice Slovakia (<http://www.iearn2004.net/>) and will be presented by a Malaysian teacher at the iEARN Amman, Jordan Regional Conference of countries with significant Muslim populations.

Founded in 1988, iEARN <www.iearn.org> is a non-profit global network that enables young people (ages 5 to young adult) to use the Internet and other new technologies to engage in collaborative educational projects that both enhance learning and make a difference in the world. Students and teachers participate in any of the 180 current projects and new projects are created each day. iEARN-USA is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization and was recently awarded the 2003 Goldman Sachs Foundation Prize for Excellence in International Education. IEARN-USA is based in New York City.

Interactive FrameWorks, Inc. <www.frame-works.com> designs and realizes national and international media projects for general, community-affairs, and education audiences.

For information on iEARN and the MovingVoices Project, contact iEARN-USA, 475 Riverside Drive, #450, New York, NY 10115; 212/870-2693

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