

Fellow CTE Educators,

We are fast approaching the Holiday season and with the change in weather, I hope you notice a big change in the way WASTS is providing Technical Upgrades for you.

Having just concluded our first ever Mini-Conference we are excited about the change. Though registrations were low the event was tremendously successful. Adobe wizard Joe Dockery from Mt. Si High School led sessions on Camtasia. This amazing program lets you record your lesson for storage on a server. Building a library of lessons that can be recalled by students who may have been absent or just plain need the concepts refreshed in their minds.

Eric Franz, "Super T.O.S.A." (Teacher on special assignment) from Yakima School District, led sessions on Dymo's spectacular Mimio Pad. This piece of technology allows you to run your computer from any point in your classroom and annotate items on the screen through use of a projector. It can capture and store elements as well as lessons in total.

Stephanie Thomas of the Seattle Police Department shared a look into the pitfalls of "Social Networking" all our students are exposed to, and what we should be on the lookout for in your classrooms.

IBM provided a demonstration of their VMware virtual classroom during our lunch break, and Dymo showed off their new classroom response equipment that lets kids punch in their answers and then displays the results on screen for instant feedback.

Following a delicious lunch created by 30+ students of the Renton High School Culinary Arts program, Jim McMurchie of the Puget Sound Skills Center presented the all new Microsoft Academy and Joe Dockery continued with an advanced Camtasia user session. Finishing up the afternoon the Academy of Interactive Entertainment outlined the totally new concept behind this all new post-secondary education opportunity centered on digital art and game design. Campus is located on the second floor of the Center House at Seattle Center.

The WASTS executive board is extremely pleased with the smooth flow and success of this, our first Mini-Conference. We urge you to consider carpooling to Kennewick to the TRI-TECH Skills Center to participate in our next event February 25th, 2012. Dymo will be there "in force" as our featured technology provider. Additional new sessions are continuing to be arranged as I write this letter to you – stay tuned!

With the drive in-drive out concept, a \$99 full day cost including lunch and clock hours, it's more than a bargain for both you and your district. Remember we welcome all educators to these technical upgrade sessions; you don't have to be a member of WASTS to participate. Hope to see you in Kennewick.

Ken Toney  
WASTS President 2011-2012