May 25, 2011

Contact: Rick Gaisford, Educational Technology Specialist, Utah State Office of Education
Rick.Gaisford@schools.utah.gov, 801-538-7798

Utah Superintendent Visits Innovative Iron County Ed-Tech Program

CEDAR CITY – Superintendent of Public Instruction Larry K. Shumway will be visiting Iron County School District to see the implementation of one of the programs funded with a 2011 State Superintendent Innovation Grant Award. Iron County and Southwest Educational Development Center **(**SEDC) received a $24,563 grant to implement Technology Engaged Activities for Math (TEAM), which provides professional development and classroom technology focused on enhancing math instruction for at-risk and low-performing students at three elementary schools.

"Implementing educational technology in the classroom offers unprecedented opportunities for teachers to target instruction and harness students' innate interest in all things digital," Superintendent Shumway says. "That's why we are currently crafting a statewide education technology initiative that will ensure all of Utah's high school graduates are prepared with the skills they'll need to succeed in an increasingly technology-dependent world."

Feedback from the recipients of the 2011 State Superintendent Innovation Grant Award recipients will help inform this statewide education technology initiative.

In October 2010, the Superintendent invited Utah public schools and districts to apply for grants to fund innovative demonstration projects for using technology in the classroom. More than 400 applications, totaling more than $13 million in requests, were received and reviewed. Seven of these proposals were selected in January to receive the 2011 State Superintendent Innovation Grant Awards, totaling $375,250.

What: Utah Superintendent of Public Instruction Larry K. Shumway visits third grade classrooms using the TEAM program, which has been implemented in three Iron County School District elementary schools and was funded with a 2011 State Superintendent Innovation Grant Award.

Who: One-on-one interview opportunities with Utah Superintendent of Public Instruction Larry K. Shumway, Iron County School District Superintendent Jim Johnson, the district's Director of Elementary Education Terry Pickett, East Elementary School Principal Steve Burton, Southwest Educational Development Center Specialist Clint Stephens, and East Elementary teachers and students learning with the TEAM program. Local area state lawmakers have also been invited.

Where: East Elementary School
255 E. College Ave.
Cedar City, Utah
(435) 486-2840

When: Thursday, May 26, 2011
10:00-11:00 a.m.

###

The 2011 recipients of the State Superintendent Innovation Grant Awards are:

Iron County School District and Southwest Educational Development Center (SEDC):
Iron County and SEDC received $24,563 in a collaborative effort to provide professional development and classroom technology focused on enhancing mathematical instruction for at-risk and low-performing students through the use of Technology Engaged Activities for Math (TEAM). The project will focus on third grade students at three elementary schools. The goal of the project is to use technology to teach and practice fundamental arithmetic operations specific to all standards in the new mathematics core.

Jennifer Lightfoot, Kindergarten teacher, Viewmont Elementary, Murray School District:
Ms. Lightfoot received $16,035.73 to create and implement individualized digital literacy and numeracy centers for kindergarten students. The program will allow students to experience a lesson or objective multiple times in a variety of ways suited to individual learner needs.

Alpine Elementary and Traverse Mountain Elementary, Alpine School District:
Alpine Elementary and Traverse Mountain Elementary received $43,532. The two schools will incorporate a cross-school initiative where general and special education students will share, edit, compare and practice literacy and numeracy skills. The students and teachers will collaborate on specific core objectives using technology. Parents will be able to view progress and apply the same technology at home for homework practice and engagement.

Parkside Elementary School, Murray School District:
Parkside Elementary received $50,000 to create a teacher-specific podcast library of quality instruction demonstrated by effective teachers in language arts, mathematics and science. The videos will be accompanied by educationally relevant applications. The videos can be used by teachers who wish to view an exceptional lesson or by students for independent review and study. The podcasts will also be available for parents to use at home.

Piute High School, Piute County School District:
Piute County School District received $43,000. Piute High School will use the grant to enable teachers in a rural setting to re-design and transform their classrooms into 21st century learner environments. Using extensive professional development and additional funds from the district, students in ninth grade will be provided with tools and lessons based on a new, innovative, technology-driven delivery system. Piute will ensure the project's continuance by purchasing additional technology every year for the next 4 years until all students have 1:1 access to learning.

Canyons School District:
Canyons School District received $48,120 to support data-based decision making for students at risk for academic failure. Instructional coaches and intervention assistants will use technology to keep dynamic assessment data, provide immediate feedback to students and to adjust instruction. Video observations will also be recorded by coaches to provide feedback to teachers on instructional delivery.

Jordan School District:
Jordan School District received $150,000. Jordan will use the funds in partnership with the Utah Education Network (UEN) to develop media-rich, on-line core professional development modules, develop and pilot a ninth grade mathematics electronic textbook and share deliverables statewide. The project will ensure that students and teachers will have a smooth technology-integrated transition from the old to the new core and will create resources that can be used in schools throughout the state.