

Friendship through Education Connecting Classroom Communities in the World: Professional Development for International Education through Technology

The Friendship Through Education (FTE) Consortium, with leadership by iEARN-USA, has been funded by the U.S. Department of Education to create professional development demonstration projects through which U.S. schools can internationalize their curricula as a way to enhance global learning and understanding in a context of educational goals that are aligned with state and national educational standards. In these projects, students and teachers in the U.S., and schools throughout the world, will utilize the Internet and other new technologies to demonstrate how international education can be integrated into K-12 classrooms.

Through one demonstration project, which is called Connecting Classroom Communities in the World (C³ World Project), ten K-8 pilot schools in King County of Washington State will be selected to engage in comprehensive professional development, including on-site mentoring in the classroom, an online professional development course that builds international education communities, and implementation of collaborative curricula projects through which students and teachers engage with peers in other countries to achieve educational objectives and gain global understanding.

This initiative is unique in that it brings together schools, classroom teachers, and state education programs (social studies, world languages, technology, and international education) to demonstrate how technology can be used to integrate international education into all parts of a teacher's curriculum. The initiative utilizes the international community and project-based learning of iEARN and resources of the other Friendship Through Education (FTE) Consortium members. It is being conducted in collaboration with the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The initiative also builds on the highly-regarded work of the Washington State Coalition for International Education, sponsored by the National Coalition for Asia and International Studies in the Schools.

The key elements of the project include:

- Selection of the ten pilot schools and two teachers from each school as participants in the project (by February 10, 2004)
- Professional development through on-site classroom mentoring by the Project Director, Ms. Kristi Rennebohm Franz, a nationally recognized teacher and author on the subject of technology-based integration of international education in classrooms, at each school (March to June 2004)
- Video-conferencing and e-mail among participants to build a collaborative professional development community

- Teacher participation in a nine-week online course on how to use technology in international project-based learning (estimated teacher time: five hours per week)
- Monthly professional development seminars by all participating teachers to build expertise with integrating international education and technology into curriculum and assessing student learning within the context of this initiative (March to June 2004)
- Dissemination of results at the 2004 NECC conference
- Participation in the 2004 iEARN International Conference in Slovakia in July 2004 (two half-scholarships for conference fees and transportation for each participating school), for the purpose of sharing their experiences with educators from other states and countries
- Reporting to the U.S. Department of Education on results from the project for adaptation in other states and communities in the U.S.

Schools wishing to participate in this initiative should contact Kristi Rennebohm Franz at krennebohmfranz@us.iearn.org Tel: (206) 320-1459 and complete a participation application form by February 10, 2004.

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School Participation Application Form

Date _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

School Phone _____

School Website _____

School Principal _____ Email _____

Classroom Teacher/Grade _____ Email _____

Classroom Teacher/Grade _____ Email _____

School Technology: (check the technology currently available at the school)

Email _____

Website for School _____ for Publishing Classroom Pages _____

Digital Camera _____

Video Camera _____

Video Conferencing _____

Classroom Internet Connectivity _____

Software most frequently used in the classroom:

Description of technology support for the building and classroom teachers:

Describe interest in International Education (Include brief description of what your school and classroom would like to begin doing in international education. If your school/classroom already has international education events focus, programs, projects, briefly list or describe them.)