

BITS & BYTES

...On literacy, learning, and leadership,
through technology
September 2001

CT Voices for Children
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CT PARENT TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY TAKES SHAPE

CT Voices for Children has received funding from the CT Commission on Educational Technology to develop the CT Parent Technology Academy.

The goal of the Academy is to address issues of technology knowledge and access among the state's "digital divide" families, beginning with those whose children are enrolled in CT's priority school districts.

Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell proposed establishing the Academy as part of a 1999 plan to improve technology-assisted learning in

CT's K-12 schools and higher education.

The Academy will launch in the fall of 2001 in partnership with the United Way of CT and the CT Distance Learning Consortium.

CT United Way's InfoLine will include listings of programs throughout CT that offer free or low-cost technology training and access to hardware. This listing will be avail-

able by phone and on the Internet as part of CT's "211" system. A survey of community technology

programs is now underway by InfoLine in partnership with CT Voices for Children.

The CT Distance Learning Consortium is developing a website for the Parent Tech Academy, and the Academy has partnered with the Hartford Public Schools to develop its first community pilot effort for Hartford parents.

For more information or to participate in development of the CT Parent Technology Academy, contact any of the following Voices' staff:

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30% of CT's lower income families own personal computers compared with 60% of middle income families and 80-90% of CT's higher income families.

The Gartner Group

US TECH CORPS TO BRING RESOURCES TO CT

TECH CORPS™, the premier national business-education technology alliance, will soon have a state chapter in Connecticut. Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from The SBC Foundation, CT Voices for Children will work with TECH CORPS national staff and CT partners to establish TECH CORPS-CT.

TECH CORPS-CT will assist businesses to link with CT schools and young people around a broad range of technology issues, beginning with a pilot in Hartford in partnership with the Hart-

ford Public Schools. TECH CORPS-CT will also serve as a clearinghouse for best practices and logistics information on tech-based school-business partnerships.

TECH CORPS— www.techcorps.org — provides its chapters with additional resources, including a free online teacher technology tutorial (Web Teacher) and electronic tech mentors (Tech4Schools) for school districts. TECH CORPS will also fund a FT VISTA position for Connecticut for '01-02.

To join with us, contact S. Nicholas, J. Gruendel or Tom Buckley. Tom is at:
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, AND CT'S FUTURE WORKFORCE: A FEW FAST FACTS

► By 2006, 49% of private sector employees will work in industries that produce or are heavy users of information technology or services. National Governor's Association, 1999

► Nearly 40% of CT businesses recently surveyed by CBIA believe that technology "is the state's future engine of growth." *CBIA News*, Sept. 10, 2001

► Connecticut is "highly reliant on IT workers to compete. The traditional cornerstones of the CT economy — finance, insurance, manufacturing — use information technology workers more extensively than the rest of the nation." Battelle report on the IT workforce, 2001

► If a family is white or Asian-American, of middle or upper income,

and if parents have at least a college degree, there is a much greater chance that the family will also have, and use, information technology at home. If a family is African-American or Latino and with lower income, the

opposite is true. *Technology Counts, 2001*

► CT's high poverty schools continue to lag behind low poverty schools across a range of ed tech measures, such as Internet access and the classroom use of Internet resources.

Technology Counts, 2001

► CT's workforce for the next 20 years has already been born. With CT's growing reliance on IT across our economic landscape, we need *all* CT young people to become technology proficient through school, work and family learning

opportunities.

CT Girls and Tech News...

The CT Girls & Technology Network hosted its 2nd Exposition on September 13 in partnership with State Senator Joseph Crisco, Jr. and Quinnipiac University. One hundred 7th grade girls and their teachers attended from the Greater New Haven area. CT Comptroller Nancy Wyman spoke as well as Prof. Mark Thompson, Associate Dean of the School of Business.

Students participated in sessions on computer deconstruction, DNA fingerprinting, biotechnology, veterinary technology, broadcast technology and web design. To provide role models, many sessions were led by women in the field.

The next Girls & Tech Expo will be co-hosted by Housatonic Community College. To join the Network or host/participate in an expo, call CT Voices or contact Jean Rozett, Girls & Tech Network Co-Chair at:

JRozett@aol.com

The digital divide in Connecticut involves "people and communities being left out and not realizing their full potential as part of the digital economy and e-business development."

For Connecticut to meet its future workforce needs, it must "ramp up and retrofit the educational pipeline," and "retool the existing workforce." Battelle, 2001

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