

NEW ORLEANS EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSORTIUM, INC.

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NOETC NEXUS

WEBSITE IS UP!!

**Virtual Rides on the Polar Express
Conducted for K-3 Classes**

New Orleans Educational
Telecommunications
Consortium, Inc.



After a very long time, NOETC has a working website! One of the goals of the new director, Susan Simkowski, was to establish a better web presence. Instead of a page holder, you can find almost anything you need there. Information found on the website includes committee rosters, television program schedules, information about member institutions, and links to important educational websites. In a world where a website reflects the organization, it is important for a consortium focusing on technology to present a professional appearance.

The group responsible for the design is a subset of the UNO Office for Distance Learning under Metropolitan College. Led by Donna Carter Koger, the unit works on contracts with the U.S. Navy to develop civilian workforce and military web-based training as well as with the U.S. Border Patrol Academy to update and re-design their agent trainee curriculum and develop web-resources for their instructors and trainees. The group also assist Metro College and other UNO departments with their web sites and with the UNO Human Resource Management office on faculty/staff training via the UNO Blackboard system.

Visit the new NOETC website at www.noetc.org

Have an issue to discuss or just want to vent about something that's perplexing you? GO BLOG IT! Find our blog at <http://notc.blogspot.com>

**Blog! Blog!
Blog!**



KIDS INTERACT WITH SANTA, LEARN LIFE SCIENCE LESSONS OF NORTH POLE OVER VIDEO CONFERENCING FIELD TRIPS

Santa Claus will once again lead the "Chats with Santa" classroom seminars held annually for K-3 classes around the country. This year's interactive, forty-five minute lesson, entitled "A Virtual Ride on the Polar Express" will be presented by Santa Claus with the help of his long time associate, and lead reindeer, Prancer. The programs will be transmitted via video conferencing systems in schools and at the North Pole (actually at a real reindeer farm in South Dakota).

Each video session, connecting up to 4 schools at a time and classes from kindergarten to third grade, teaches life science, geography, language arts, math and reading through a series of lessons in the four days prior to their interactive Q&A with Santa. "This is the fourth year for these popular Polycom video conferencing sessions with Santa," said Elaine Shuck, executive director of Black Hills Smart Centers in South Dakota. "In the three years we've been conducting these sessions we've connected 100 schools and several thousands of students around the U.S. with Santa."

Prices for participating in the video conference range from \$75 to \$500 depending on the number of schools connected and the level of interaction with Santa.



Happy Holidays

The NOETC office will be closed during the Holiday season, from December 27 to January 2. Office hours will resume on January 3, 2005. Call 504.524.0350 with emergencies.

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Louisiana Heads West

Members of Louisiana's institutions of higher learning recently attended the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications Conference in San Antonio. Said Pattie Steib, Curriculum/Distance Learning Specialist at Southeastern Louisiana University, "I found it very gratifying to get reinforcement through the shared experiences of presenters throughout the conference that Louisiana is at the top of the game in electronic learning." Others were looking for solutions, especially to connectivity and video issues. Such sessions as "Transition into the Digital Age-HDTV and More," "Inter-institutional Collaborations: How to Meet the Demand for High Quality, Cost-Effective Online Programs," and "Exploring Technology Applications: Some New Directions" were useful and informative. This annual event is certainly one to put on your conference list! **WCET is coming to New Orleans in 2005.** For participation and conference information please contact Susan Simkowski, 504-524-0350, or Mike Abbiatti, 225-342-4253. WCET can be found on the web at www.wcet.info.

Committee Corner

Mr. Brett Jacobs is chair of NOETC's Information Technology subcommittee. His duties include acting as the liaison between the group and Educause and convening IT meetings. Mr. Jacobs has also been instrumental in upgrading the NOETC office.

He is the Executive Director of Information Technology at Loyola University New Orleans. Prior to this appointment, Jacobs joined Loyola in 1998 after an 18 year career in Systems Development and served as director of Information Technology. He coordinates all aspects of information technology including support of educational technologies and distance learning, maintenance of laboratory and classroom technology, network services, user services, telecommunications, information management including enhancement of the Common Data Warehouse and software applications. Jacobs is responsible for Loyola's strategic planning, assessment, and resource allocation pertaining to instructional innovation and administrative technology, and for providing coherent direction for the technological development of the university. Jacobs, a native of New Orleans, holds a bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of New Orleans.

Mr. Jacobs also represents Loyola on NOETC's Executive Committee.

H.E.A.T. Program Update...

Beginning in January of 2005, the *H.E.A.T.* program schedule will feature a series of health and emergency preparedness programs from such organizations as the Alabama Department of Public Health; the U.S. Center for Disease Control; and the California Distance Learning Association. These programs, ranging in topics from Emergency Risk Communication to Proper Handling of Vaccines often count towards CEUs for health care students and professionals, and public officials. A complete schedule of these events will be featured in the next issue of NOETC' electronic newsletter, **NOETC Nexus.**

Watch Higher Education Access Television on Channel 76 and the New Orleans Access Channel (NOA-TV) on 77 & 78 (Cox Cable).

Building bridges to tomorrow through the use of cutting-edge technology today


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