



DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Public Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nortel forms partnership with Durham Public Schools and Riverdeep

DURHAM – Fifty teachers from Durham Public Schools (DPS) will be the first in the state to earn e-Teacher certification through a new partnership with Nortel LearnIT. The teachers will participate in training and will spend part of their summer writing lesson plans that will then be shared with other teachers via the Nortel LearnIT Website and the Riverdeep Learning Village.

Nortel LearnIT is an initiative that involves sharing online learning opportunities and resources for teachers, students and learners of all ages. LearnIT's project-based lesson plans are similar to lesson plans that are a part of Riverdeep Learning Village. The lessons are organized and searchable by grade, subject and technology. DPS teachers at all levels share lesson plans via Riverdeep. The Riverdeep effort in DPS started with middle and high school teachers sharing lesson plans and has since expanded to the elementary level.

Through this new partnership, DPS grades 3 through 8 teachers will be trained in LearnIT on June 14. Teachers will spend one to two weeks writing lesson plans that will be shared locally and nationally through LearnIT and Riverdeep. Technology facilitators, media specialists and others will work with the teachers to integrate technology into the plans.

In addition to stipends for participating in the training and writing, teachers will receive incentives that they can use to enhance the lessons. Digital cameras, webcams and other tools are among the incentives the teachers may receive. DPS teachers also will be encouraged to partner with Nortel employee volunteers.

“We are very pleased that our teachers will share their knowledge with each other and with teachers across the country using the LearnIT and Riverdeep initiatives,” Superintendent Carl Harris said. “Part of the Professional Learning Communities movement involves finding more opportunities for teachers to collaborate. This partnership is an excellent example of how we can help facilitate collaboration.”

Edgar Murphy, Nortel Community Relations Manager, said he is proud that his home community of Durham is the first district in the state to sign on to LearnIT in such a major way.

GOALS for 2007: 95% of third-graders reading proficiently Eliminating the Achievement Gap

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“LearnIT gives teachers and other educators a great tool to enhance 21st Century skills—their own and their students! Nortel employees in Durham are excited to get the local teachers involved and look forward to volunteering in the local schools. This is a win-win partnership all around,” Murphy stated.

Riverdeep officials also welcome the new opportunity to share information among teachers. BLANK said, “As a recognized outstanding educational product (Technology & Learning magazine’s Legacy Award winner), Riverdeep already provides teachers with a way of sharing lessons and integrating curriculum and technology. This partnership with Nortel and Durham Public Schools has the potential to multiply the use of technology in learning throughout the classrooms of this district and others statewide and nationally.”

For more information about LearnIT, check the Web at www.nortellearnIT.org Riverdeep is online at www.riverdeep.net

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