Looking At The ISSUES

Stark Education Partnership, inc.
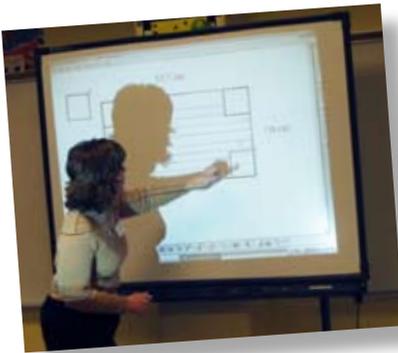
The End of the Blackboard

Academic excellence must be acquired within the context of today's technological environment in order to fully prepare students to thrive in the Digital Age.[1]

It's been called a "blackboard with a brain" and you don't need chalk. A SMART Board projects computer applications on a large touch controlled screen. Teachers and students can then write on that screen with digital ink, input data, create visualizations and surf the web. The benefit is that teachers can now show students how to do computer-savvy lessons and process information in a high tech world in a way never possible with the old blackboard which emerged in the early 1800s.

A unique partnership between the Timken Foundation and the Stark County Educational Service Center (SCESC) has helped introduce this concept to Stark County schools. Through this partnership, SCESC provided professional development, and the Timken Foundation through the Stark Education Partnership provided seed monies to fund an initial core of over 50 boards to teachers through a competitive proposal process. Together these efforts provided the impetus for school districts themselves to make further SMART Board purchases, often funding teachers who applied but did not win a SMART Board.

Academic Year	Total # of SMART Boards in 17 School Districts	SMART Boards Funded by the Timken Foundation
2003-04	15	
2004-05	60	24
2005-06	NA	28
2006-07	536	

The end result is that Stark County is now a leader in this new technology as the number of SMART boards in classrooms is increasing exponentially. With SMART Boards now being used in classrooms in over 75 countries, our students will also be better prepared to work with new and emerging technologies in the global marketplace.[2]

Looking At The Week

Washington D.C. Conference

By special invitation, Dr. Adrienne O'Neill attended the Fourth Annual High School Policy Conference of the Alliance for Excellent Education. The event, *"From No Child Left Behind to Every Child A Graduate,"* was held in Washington, D.C. October 4th-5th.

P-16 Book Two on ERIC

The Partnership's book *P-16: The Last Education Reform. Book Two: Emerging Local, Regional, and State Efforts* is now available through ERIC (ED497961) at: www.eric.ed.gov

[1] *North Central Regional Educational Laboratory and the Metiri Group (2003). enGauge 21st Century Skills: Literacy in the Digital Age. Authors. Available at: www.ncrel.org*

[2] *Cohn, D. (2005). Boards Get Brains, Chalk Vanishes. Wired.Com. Available at: http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2005/06/67710*