

L² NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2004

WESTERN CAROLINA CONSORTIUM

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Welcome to the New CT Superintendent
- ◆ Learning Logic and Internet Capabilities
- ◆ Georgia Congressman Max Burns Event
- ◆ Learning Logic Competition
- ◆ On-line Review Tests and Key Availability

During the last year, the National Science Center Foundation, Inc. (NSCF) has worked closely with The Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas (ERC) to help achieve their goals of strengthening their economy and population through education and research.

In 1997, Congressman Charles H. Taylor of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina called a meeting of college presidents to put together a plan whereby Western NC (WNC) could participate in a new technology revolution. Out of this meeting came the Education and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas, a non-profit organization whose board is comprised of college presidents in the region.

The ERC's goal is to bring to Western NC and the upstate of South Carolina, as an inte-

grated region, the economic and quality of life benefits new technology offers.

Four Learning Logic (L²) labs have been created with funding from this effort. Dr. Christopher C. Dennen, Director of the Adventure of the American Mind group manages a portion of the grant. He is assisted by Ms. Beth Allan, Director of the Center for Mathematics and Science Education at Western Carolina University. Two of the labs are at Tri-County Community College. The main campus lab is in Murphy, NC is staffed by faculty members Dr. Lee Erker, Roy Barrett, and Kathy Temple. The Graham County Center's lab in nearby Robbinsville, NC is manned by Roy Barrett (he's a busy man!), Dr. Gene Boyer and William Bristol. The third lab is Madison High School in Marshall, NC and its lead teachers are Karen Blevins

and Brent Caldwell. The fourth lab is at Faith Christian School in Hendersonville, NC and is run by Glenda Spicer. Faith Christian graciously hosted Teacher Training for teachers from both Tri-County locations and teachers from Madison HS on November 10-11, 2003.



Madison High School

NEW COURSEWARE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

The Foundation is pleased to announce that Paul F. Strieffler has joined our organization as the new Courseware Development Coordinator. Paul has a B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Hartford and a M.A. in Educational Com-

puting and Technology from the same university. Paul has many functions within the Foundation, but his primary focus currently is the completion of the development of our Learning Logic Pre-Algebra program.



TRAINING AND UPDATE MEETINGS

Our annual Teacher Update Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 18, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. until noon here at the Foundation. Historically, these have been very informative meetings where experienced Learning Logic teachers share effective tools and ideas to improve class-

room performance and efficacy. Two training sessions have been set up for the summer. The first will be June 21-24 and the second will be July 19-22. Both will occur at the Foundation. The training, breakfasts, and lunches are free! Your only costs will be for lodging, travel, and din-

ners. If you have not been properly trained, are a new teacher, or would like a refresher class, please feel free to attend. SDU credits will be given for full participation.

Please RSVP to all three of these sessions to Lisa Macuch at (706)868-3624.

PRE-ALGEBRA CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Foundation has begun the process of completing the new Pre-Algebra curriculum. We have chosen the following seven highly respected mathematics teachers to be our Topic Writers: Deborah Blackmon of Evans Middle School, Laura Collins of

Greenbrier Middle School, Anne McCord of Screven Middle School, Suzie Mull of Augusta Preparatory Day School, Thomas Norris of Glenn Hills Middle School, Robert L. Phillips, and Soule Slaby. They are already busy at work. These Topic Writers

have completed the design specifications, outlines, and are working on the courseware pages for the 24 topics to complete our Pre-Algebra curriculum. The projected deadline for completion of Learning Logic Pre-Algebra curriculum is Fall 2004.

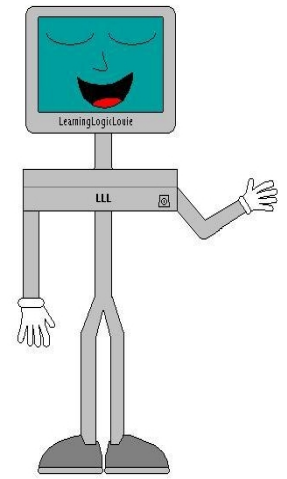
CONNECTICUT LABS

Paul Striefler, the new NSCF Courseware Development Coordinator, has recently completed visiting all 17 Learning Logic labs at different Regional Vocational Technical Schools (RVTS) across the state of Connecticut. This trip was very beneficial for the

NSCF, for we were able to meet all Learning Logic teachers and assess their concerns and needs.

With the help of John DiPasquale of Vinal RVTS, the NSCF has plans to correlate Learning Logic with the Con-

necticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). The NSCF would also like to congratulate all of the Regional Vocational Technical Schools in the hiring of your new superintendent, Abigail L. Hughes. We hope that all is well during this time of transition!



Learning Logic Louie

“ NSCF has plans to correlate Learning Logic with the Connecticut CAPT. ”

ON BECOMING INTERNET-BASED



Learning Logic's Internet Capabilities

As more schools gain access to the Internet, the Foundation has begun to explore the possibility of delivering L² courseware over the Internet. Doing so offers the potential for significant benefits.

Potential benefits include making L² available to homebound students, to smaller

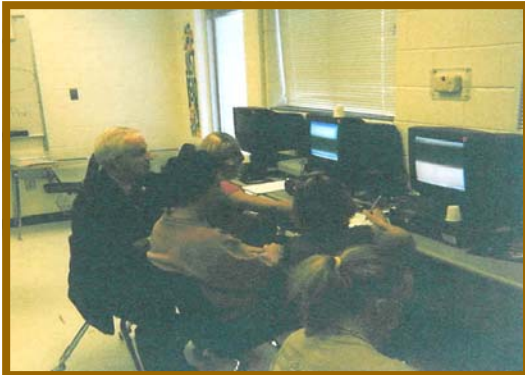
schools that might have difficulty cost-justifying a L² computer lab, and to school systems where administrative restrictions prevent the acquisition of capital equipment, such as a L² classroom server. With an offsite server maintained by the Foundation, the burden of backing up the L²

database falls on the Foundation, instead of the individual classroom teacher. The Foundation is in the process of addressing several remaining technical issues.

Look for further updates as we move toward taking greater advantage of the capabilities of the Internet.

UNITED IN SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

On September 29, 2003, Screven County Learning Logic teachers, students, and parents united with Georgia 12th District Congressman Max Burns and



Congressman Max Burns observes L²

the National Science Center Foundation to witness the success of Learning Logic at both the Middle and High Schools in Screven County Georgia.



Screven Co. Teachers: (L to R) Melissa Weaver, Lisa Thomas, Kathy Youmans, Lydia Bragg

There were over one hundred participants in this two-hour event and reception. The enthusiasm of all is encapsulated in this picture of several of Screven County's dedicated teachers!

LEARNING LOGIC COMPETITION

Over the past year, the Foundation has been looking into the capabilities of other teaching programs. What we have found is that most other computerized programs available do not carry the same level of in-depth

teaching as Learning Logic. The majority of the programs on the market are designed solely as reinforcement aids for standard classroom teaching. In this way, the teacher does the primary instruction in a traditional class-

room and the computer is limited to a simple tutoring system.

We still believe that Learning Logic is the most effective and cost-effective software available anywhere!

“ Most other programs available do not carry the same level of in-depth teaching as Learning Logic.”

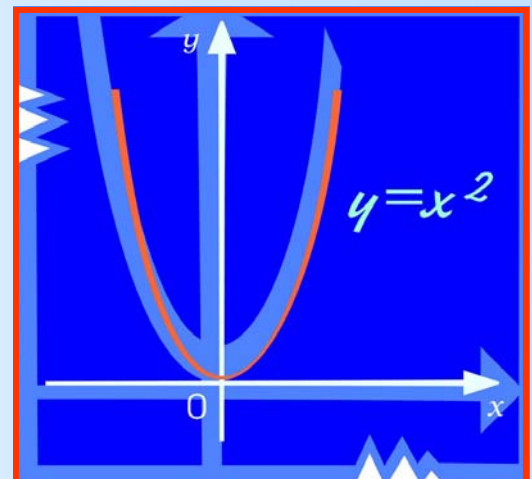
END-OF-COURSE TEST

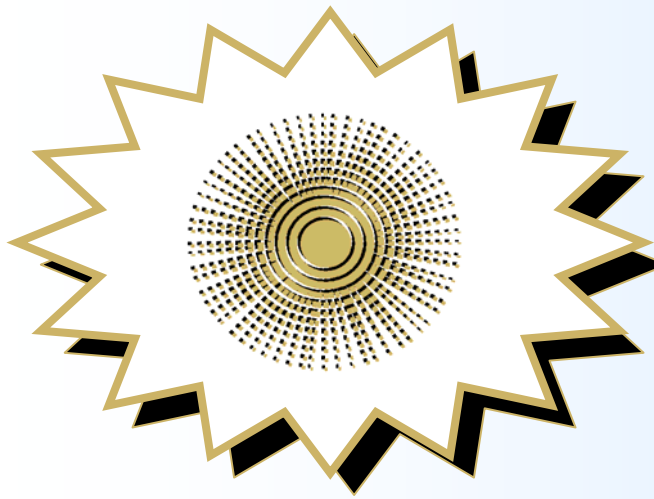
The Foundation has made available a test template that correlates the Georgia End-of-Course Review Test to Learning Logic courseware. The test template consists of 264 questions created from 88 topics that will help stu-

dents with reviewing for the End-of-Course Test. Learning Logic teachers can print out copies of the test with an optional answer key or create online tests for their students. The test can also be split up into smaller

groupings of topics with fewer questions to accommodate the availability of different class schedules.

Please contact Lisa Macuch at the NSCF Foundation for questions on availability.





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MARKETING PRIVILEGES GRANTED

The National Science Center Foundation, in a continued effort to excel in its goal of renewing students' interest in mathematics and delivering new ways to use technology to teach, has partnered with Logical Learning Systems, Inc. (L²S) to formulate and execute a national marketing effort. The organization will introduce Learning Logic and its phenomenal results to thousands of middle and high schools, community colleges, and other learning environments around the country.

L²S, like the National Science Center Foundation, is nestled not far from the world renowned Augusta National Golf Club. The President of L²S is Jim Finger, Jr., who has successfully established and grown Network Data Services, a network

and school security service provider that is also an Augusta based company. Victoria Holt serves as the Executive Vice President. She is a native Augustan, former teacher, and county technology specialist with an extensive sales background. Victoria earned a MBA from Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia.

The partnership offers strong connections to the educational community that will be used to propel the integration of Learning Logic in schools and learning environments with conducive technical infrastructures that will support the Algebra I software program.

L²S featured Learning Logic for the first time at the Southern Regional Math Conference in Charleston, SC on November 6-7, 2003

FEATURED SCHOOL: Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School

All students at Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School (W-WCHS) have the opportunity to take at least one math course using the Learning Logic lab. Utilizing two lab classrooms, students take all Algebra I courses using Learning Logic (8th grade Algebra I, Concepts of Problem Solving, and Concepts of Algebra). Being a pilot school for Learning Logic, W-WCHS teachers and students have been using the program to teach and learn Algebra for 14 years.

Math Chair Belle Guin states: "Changing from a traditional textbook course to the lab

course drastically lowered the failure rate. Discipline problems are few. All students are actively involved learning and working at their own rate. The success of the

program is two-fold. L² is a GREAT mastery-based program, BUT it doesn't teach students by itself. The way our teachers use the lab is the key. Performance Assessments and notebook checks help to insure students really understand and can apply what they are learning.



Becky Wilson leads the way

W-WCHS now hosts a L² Open House that parents and students can attend. We got the idea from some teachers in Gainesville, GA at a L² Update Meeting. Another positive aspect is the awesome technical support we have ALWAYS received. When W-WCHS added another lab, NSCF technicians made sure everything was installed correctly, and that we knew how to use the

hardware, as well as the software. The five teachers at W-WCHS believe using L² to teach Algebra to all levels is the best possible situation for students."