



# SCK Distance Learning News!

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 2010

## DISTANCE LEARNING PROVIDES:

- Student projects
- Enrichment to Curriculum
- An alternative to Field Trips
- Professional Development

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## What's Rattlin' - Student Project

A third grade class in Snyder, Texas presented to over 300 South Central Kansas students in grades 1 – 5 on the exciting journey to the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup. The roundup is held annually during the second week in March when the temperatures are heating up and the snakes are coming out to get warm in the sun. In the 1999 Roundup, around 19,600 pounds of rattlers were caught and terminated. The purpose of the round up is to reduce the population of these deadly snakes. They are not only hazardous to people, but to animals as well. The students shared pictures of rattlesnake bites to emphasize the seriousness of these snakes and the importance of the roundup. Several Snyder teachers were able to participate in the roundup first hand to take video for the project. Students were not allowed to go on the hunt due to the danger.

To begin their presentation, the students shared where they were located with a map of Texas. During the video conference, the students observed video of snake-handling professionals milking the poisonous venom. The venom is used in several ways. It is used in making the anti-venom, and in medical research. Other parts of the snake are also used for a variety of

reasons. The skin is used for purses, belts, and hats. Many Texans enjoy the meat as well. The students said "It tastes like chicken"! They gave a warning of "grossness" for those with a queasy stomach as they showed video of the internal organs in-



**A Western Diamond Back Rattlesnake**

cluding the heart. Did you know the rattlesnake's heart can beat over 45 minutes outside the body?

Kansas students were able to hear the rattler's distinctive "buzzing" sound. Students explained how the rattler of the snake gains a new "notch" each time they shed their skin. These "notches" are what create the rattle and the sound they are famous for. Students learned safety tips if they were ever to encounter a snake.

At the end of the program, Kansas students were able to ask questions about the presentation and rattlesnakes. One question was "has there ever been a rattlesnake at school?" To the student's surprise the answer was

yes and their principal was able to catch and kill it! The day before one video conference, a teacher encountered a rattlesnake on the road on the way home. They were able to kill it and brought in the rattler for students to see.

This is a wonderful example of a student project! Students get to be the teachers and share their knowledge with students in other states. This type of project gives students a new perspective and interest in learning.

There are other programs such as *Horse of a Different Kind* by a Middle School in Breckenridge, TX. Four Kansas classes participated in that program.

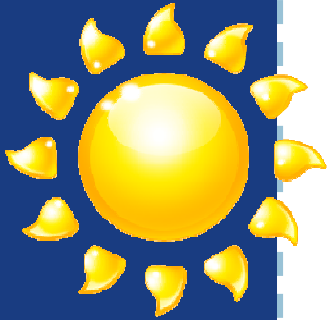
The students presented 24 Rattlesnake programs to sites in six different states including 2 Kansas networks, and over 4500 Texas students. This and the other student projects were made available through Education Service Center Region 14 in Texas as part of a RUS grant.

Watch for these programs in the 2010-2011 school year!



**Question time**

# Summer Opportunities



*Tip: Always  
do a  
practice run  
before  
giving a  
presentation*

## Programs

Distance Learning doesn't stop at the end of the school year! Many content providers have programs available all summer as well. If you have a summer school or summer workshop and would like to add an IDL connection to enrich your topic, here are some ideas:

NASA Digital Learning Network is made up of the different NASA Centers across the US. All NASA programs are free of charge and available by request.

The Smithsonian Museums maintain the largest collection of historic air and spacecraft in the world. It is also a vital center for research into the history, science, and technology of aviation and space flight, as well as planetary science and terrestrial geology and geophysics. They offer their programs free of charge

and available by request.

The Mariners' Museum is one of the largest maritime history museums in the world. They house a treasure trove of more than 35,000 items inspired by human experiences with the sea. Each program is \$100.00 and available by request.

Those are just a few of many providers to take advantage of! To view their programs and many others, please visit:

<http://audraswiki.pbworks.com>.

## Collaborations

Another idea for summer classes is to get the students connected to students in another area on a similar subject. Take a project that you are currently working on and share it with students in another state. Collaborations between students are free and are

created by the teacher. It does not have to be a large project to hassle with. A few ideas are listed below:

- If you have students working on math skills, find another class that would like to work with you
- Conduct a race between the sites with multiplication facts
- Plan a game with spelling words
- Have a spelling bee
- Learn about different states by connecting to them

The possibilities are endless! To find a partner class, please contact SckDLN or visit CILC's collaboration Center: [www.cilc.org](http://www.cilc.org).

## Tips for the IDL Classroom

Below is a list of ways to improve what others see from your site during a videoconference. These tips can be useful especially for classes participating in a special connection, but also for the regular high school IDL classroom.

- **Sign Identifying Site** - use large print, sans serif font and Bold and on a stable sign.
- **Presets** - use presets on your remote or touchscreen to easily move the camera to areas you will be using during your connection.
- **Document Camera** - use to show objects more clearly to sites.
- **Fake Document Camera** - if you don't have a real one, fake it....zoom in with the camera and create presets to come back to quickly.
- **Appropriate Seating** - depending on what type of connection, arrange the students appropriately to be on camera or ready to work in groups.

- **Assign area for Speakers** - have an area near the microphone where the students can talk clearly. Either stand or have a podium or desk ready with preset.
- **Mark important areas** - Use masking tape to mark areas of importance (where to speak, where groups will sit, preset areas)
- **Practice!** - Always do a practice run before giving a presentation. Connect with another class in your building or contact Audra to set up a practice test.

If you would like more information or help in setting up your classroom, please contact SckDLN.

These ideas were taken from:

<http://vcoutonalim.org> and [www.vcrox.com](http://www.vcrox.com).

Please visit these sites for lots of IDL ideas and projects. Thank you Janine Lim and Roxanne Glaser for all the work you do for video conferencing!



DL Specialists:  
(Above) Janine Lim  
(Left) Roxanne  
Glaser

# Professional Development

## Cost effectiveness via Video Conference...

There are many avenues to travel when it comes to professional development. Now that technology in video conferencing is becoming more widely spread, more and more providers are able to offer content over video conference. Comparatively, it could add up to being a cost effective means to providing professional development in your district. Video conferencing can provide quality content while eliminating time and travel expenses for the presenter and staff. Contact South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network for assistance finding a Professional Development program that meets your needs.

## Where to find it...

Many databases that commonly host content programs for video conferencing also provide opportunities for professional development. CILC (Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration - featured in the March Newsletter) has a Marketplace to find experts that can deliver over video conference. Pricing and topics depend on the individual provider. You can choose from a wide variety of topics such as:

- “You Did that with Google!” (provider: Northern Ohio Research & Training Technology Hub)
- “21 Free Software Tools for the 21st Century Classroom” (provider: Howie DiBlasi)
- “Comprehension Development for Beginning Readers” (provider: Learning Unlimited LLC - Dr. Kimberly Tyson)
- “Classroom Coaching to Improve Instruction” (provider: The Service Center at Clearwater)
- “What Motivates Your Students? 12 year old teacher shares insights” (provider: Adora Svitak)
- “Mathematics Vocabulary: Unraveling the Myseries” (provider: Monica L. Cougan)

To access the CILC Professional Marketplace, go to [www.cilc.org](http://www.cilc.org) and click on the red tab - Professional Development Programs.



## Connected Kansas Kids...

Another valuable resource for educators looking for Professional Development is Connected Kansas Kids (CKK). Working with KU Medical resources, CKK provides interactive IDL presentations to present information about physical and mental health diagnoses in children of all ages. Currently 60 presentations are available at no cost to participants.

These presentations are designed for educators (teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, school nurses, social workers, school psychologists, PTA's, etc...) to aide students with behavioral or mental challenges that effect their success in the classroom. Presentations may also be scheduled with a combination of topics for a 1/2 day or full day in-service. Some of the topics include:

- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Asthma
- Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
- Depression
- Leukemia
- Epilepsy
- Dyslexia
- Hearing and Vision Impairments
- The Grieving Child (Losses from Divorce to Death)
- Bullying and Bullies.



To view more information about the CKK programs, please visit: [www.connectedkansaskids.com](http://www.connectedkansaskids.com) or SckDLN.

# South Central KS Distance Learning



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Watch for upcoming opportunities at:

<http://audraswiki.pbworks.com/>

Follow SckDLN on twitter:

<http://twitter.com/sckDLN>



**Distance Learning allows school districts to provide student access to secondary courses that were not previously offered because of low enrollment, lack of qualified instructors or funding.**

**In addition to the identified priority of serving secondary students, Distance Learning holds promises of curricular enhancements for students in every grade level. You can defy boundaries of the classroom and let the world in the door with Distance Learning. Bring the primary sources-real objects, activities, and scholars from the staff of history and art museums, research and science centers right into the classroom.**

## Odds and Ends

### Mark Your Calendars!

- IDL Teacher training...date coming soon!
- September 2010 WSU Fairmount Science programs announced for the year.
- October 2010 Monster Exchange
- 2011 Read Around the Planet Registration will begin November 2010.
- December 2010 Snowman Exchange

### Tidbits of Information

Phrase: "By request"

Definition: In the world of video conferencing, the phrase "by request" simply means that the program does not have a set date and time. It is available based on your schedule needs and when they have an opening.

Rule of thumb: Always allow at least 2-3 weeks notice when requesting a date and time from a provider. That allows time to confirm the date and time, do technical testing,, have the presenter ready, and distribute materials that go along with the program if applicable.



# HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!