

MEMBER profiles

Malinda McCormick

Developing the Yearning for Learning



Malinda McCormick says she still carries the passion for facilitating learning that she felt the day she logged into NASA's Web site and showed her middle school students video of Neil Armstrong taking his first steps on the moon.

"A student turned to me, and she asked, 'Why don't we go to the moon anymore?' For me, this was a life-changing moment. I saw clearly the value of providing a quality education and my role and responsibility in it," says McCormick, who now serves as director of school services for PBS affiliate station KLRN-TV in San Antonio, Texas. "I

asked her why she thought we didn't go anymore. The whole class chimed in with their ideas and thoughts about how we could someday go back there and what we could do there. I watched children become active participants in their quest for knowledge and collaboration."

McCormick is now involved in training educators on Discovery streaming tools as a re-seller of this service for KLRN, a partner organization co-hosting NECC in San Antonio this year. She is also an ISTE 100 partner through PBS TeacherLine and a docent for ISTE in Second Life.

"I promote our online professional development tool, PBS TeacherLine of Texas, to districts throughout south

Texas." It affects educators throughout Texas especially with the ISTE-certified Capstone Courses for integrating technology.

McCormick sees ISTE as playing an important role in the globalization of education. That became apparent to her after hearing CEO Don Knezek's keynote speech at NECC 2007.

"He prompts me to think about the invaluable resources of professional educators from around the world whom our students could have access to via distance learning opportunities," she says. "ISTE can take an active role in supporting this throughout the world, connecting educators to work together to develop learning experiences for a greater population of students."

All About the Sharing

Scott Merrick bought his first personal computer, a Kaypro 2x with 64K of onboard RAM, back in 1982. "I attended a technology workshop the summer before taking my first teaching job and became deeply involved with interactive videoconferencing," Merrick says. "In my very first teaching position, I strung a telephone line from the nearest office to my classroom, and on a borrowed Mac took my experience-starved students into the Journey North program to track the migrations of animals and butterflies. I was hooked."

Today, Merrick serves as Lower School Technology Coordinator for University School of Nashville, where he is the unofficial distance learning facilitator. Between preparing summer workshop presentations on Web 2.0 and Second Life, he produces the

Snacks4theBrain! podcast (<http://blogs.vanderbilt.edu/s4theb>) and works for the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt University.

"I hope educational technology can prepare our students to manage the massive quantities of information they'll experience for the rest of their lives and that our guidance can help them learn to live fruitful and humane lives," Merrick says. "I hope I can help my students recognize when media are manipulating them, learn to choose when they allow themselves to be manipulated, and know when to resist to maintain their own integrity and independence."

Merrick also serves as a docent in Second Life, maintaining the ISTE Island Blogger's Hut and Podcasters' Place. "Docenting for ISTE in Second Life helps extend my professional learning networks in ways I have grown to appreciate more and more," he says.



Scott Merrick

"ISTE's Second Life presence provides learning opportunities and networking paths for all educators on a global

scale. As the

source for student and teacher standards in technology, ISTE is my resource for ongoing work in my curriculum development and an organization I rely upon to nurture my own learning and sharing."

Merrick predicts that ISTE will continue to provide a proving ground for professional development and networking among educators and educational stakeholders on an increasingly global scale. "For me it's all about the sharing," he explains. "We grow as teachers when we share with one another and help our students to do so. My teaching colleagues everywhere are my further inspiration: None of us teaches for the money it brings, only for the help we can bring to the world."