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ASSET launches Web site

Arizona School Services through Educational Technology, or ASSET, an organization providing professional development opportunities to Arizona educators, Monday announced that at the beginning of the month it officially launched its own online professional development Web site powered by Classroom Connect.

The announcement was made at The National Education Computing Conference in San Antonio.

Professional development courses, available free of charge to all Arizona teachers and administrators, are located at <http://www.asset.asu.edu>.

According to the ASSET announcement, about 35,000 educators are expected to use its education portal, which features brief tutorials and "how to" topics in addition to 12 courses hand-picked from Classroom Connect's Connected University professional development course catalog.

"Through the Connected University Authors course, our course designers were able to learn how to create courses specific to the needs of Arizona educators," said Kathryn Kilroy, executive director of ASSET. "There is such a need for professional development that can take place on each educator's own time, that online instruction was a natural solution for us to serve Arizona's teachers."

The new Arizona courses will serve as "doors" to other resources on the ASSET Web site, all of which will soon be available only through the ASSET Education Portal.

In addition to the courses, ASSET now uses a customized calendar function to announce events, speakers, registration deadlines, and beginning and ending course dates.

Educators will access the portal with a one-time activation code and afterward with a user ID and password.

ASSET provides educators in Arizona with access to the latest professional development opportunities and instructional tools for classroom-related technology. The organization is supported by grants, as well as a membership structure.

For more information about the group visit its Web site at
<http://www.asset.asu.edu>.

Classroom Connect Inc., a business unit within Brisbane, Calif.-based Harcourt Inc., is a provider of professional learning and classroom learning resources.

For more information about Classroom Connect, visit its Web site at
<http://www.classroom.com>.

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