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PROGRAM ASSESSES EDUCATORS ONLINE

By Lidia Kelly, The Arizona Republic

An Arizona State University-based program has started an online technology assessment for public school teachers and administrators statewide.

The free program is called My Compass: An Internet Professional Development Portal for Educators. It is used to assess educators on a personal and professional level. It is administered by Arizona School Services through Educational Technology.

The assessment categories span five areas of technology-curriculum integration: Basic concepts and skills, personal and professional productivity, communication and information skills, classroom instruction and integration of technology into the curriculum.

The results remain confidential to the individual teacher, but the data may be used for analysis, said Kathryn Kilroy, ASSET executive director.

"With My Compass, school administrators can use this to give them a picture of where their teachers are with technology proficiency," Kilroy said.

"That way, they can apply their professional development resources at the appropriate level."

The program takes a teacher's reported strengths and builds an individual professional development plan to that teacher's needs for technology advancement in their classroom. The plan includes simple tutorials, face-to-face training and online courses from service providers. Teachers may earn graduate credit from ASU West, Kilroy said.

She said ASSET will offer the program through the summer of 2003. The program is available for review at the ASSET Web site at www.asset.asu.edu.