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**ASSET/KAET'S EDUCATION PORTAL
JOINS AZ DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND ASU IT
FOR STATE "IDEAL" INITIATIVE**

— The ASSET Education Portal serves as the model for online professional development and curricular resources for educators.—

Three of the state's major educational institutions are joining forces to create a landmark partnership between higher education and pre K-20. In 2001, ASSET (Arizona School Services through Educational Technology)/KAET began offering online professional development, curricular resources, and learning management tools to its members — more than half of the state's schools and districts. Beginning July 1, the same broad array of services became available to all public and charter schools in Arizona through the IDEAL (Integrating Data to Enhance Arizona's Learning) initiative launched by Superintendent Tom Horne.

IDEAL will grow to be single location on the Internet for all Arizona Stakeholders to access an information system of educational data, resources and services to increase student achievement. Arizona State University's Information Technology department developed the statewide infrastructure, under the direction Dr. Sam DiGangi

In September the initial statewide infrastructure for IDEAL was launched and the ASSET Education Portal was integrated with IDEAL through a Single Sign On process. All Arizona public and charter schools are able to use all the ASSET Education Portal services through the IDEAL system. In addition, ASSET staff provides direct support for implementation of ASSET services.

"Everyone on the ASSET professional development staff has worked as an educator, so we are very familiar with the demands of the classroom," said Debra Lorenzen, Executive Director of ASSET. "Our organization has continually incorporated recommendations from our member schools. ASSET resources are a direct response to our member needs."

ASSET materials, delivered directly to the educator's desktop, include:

Professional development — self-assessments and online courses

Digitally streamed instructional videos — a library of clips aligned with Arizona Academic Standards

Software tutorials

Professional readings

Educationally relevant Web sites

ASSET provides extensive support to its member districts and schools, both online and in person. A team of Professional Development Specialists works individually with each ASSET member district or school to implement services. Many times districts adopt a train-the-trainer model, where ASSET staff support the district's own focused use of ASSET resources

In addition ASSET has developed a cadre of online facilitators to support learners in all of its online courses. These experienced educators have been selected carefully and have completed more than 60 hours of online facilitation training.

The professional development planning tools found online also support the individual educator and district. For example, the technology module contains self-assessment and performance based assessment tools. The educator quickly gets an overall picture of what he/she knows about effectively integrating technology in to the curriculum. The module then recommends professional development resources to increase instructor expertise and, finally, provides access to those resources via the desktop. District administrators can use aggregate data from the system to make cost effective decisions about professional development.

A similar module for math instruction was just launched on October 11th. The tool will measure the educators' content and pedagogical knowledge in math, and compare that with their students' classroom performance.

"The ASSET materials are invaluable," said Nan Williams, educator from Alhambra Elementary School District. "I can create lesson plans that integrate video clips that are correlated to Arizona Standards, or find valuable resources from PBS programs like *Nova* or *Nature*, collect related Web sites and keep up with my teaching skills. Making this available to more teachers will help Arizona's students."

IDEAL will ultimately connect all of Arizona's teachers and students—eliminating barriers to access and revolutionizing learning by pooling resources and enabling collaboration at unprecedented levels.

"KAET and ASSET have fully committed their resources to the IDEAL initiative," said Greg Giczi, KAET General Manager. "Along with our partners, ASU IT and the Arizona Department of Education, we are investing in Arizona's future."

About ASSET

Since 1983, ASSET (Arizona School Services through Educational Technology) has helped Arizona K-12 educators integrate technology into their classrooms. What began as an experiment to cost effectively distribute instructional video statewide, has grown into an organization that offers a broad array of services for educators through the Internet. ASSET membership services include online and face-to-face professional development opportunities, a streamed video library, and access to a variety of Web-based resources and lesson plans through the ASSET Education Portal. ASSET is a department within KAET Public Television at Arizona State University.

About KAET

With more than 1.7 million people turning to Channel 8 each week, KAET regularly ranks among the most-viewed public television stations per capita in the country. A trusted community resource, KAET enriches the lives of Arizonans through quality programs and educational services. Channel 8 began broadcasting from the campus of Arizona State University in 1961.

KAET specializes in the education of children, unbiased news and public affairs, lifelong learning, and the celebration of arts and culture — utilizing the power of noncommercial television, the Internet, educational outreach services, and community-based initiatives.

The PBS programming on Channel 8 includes landmark series such as *Nova*, *Frontline*, *American Experience*, *Great Performances* and *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. And each week more than 450,000 children tune in to *Sesame Street*, *Arthur*, *Barney & Friends*, *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, *Caillou*, *Cyberchase*, *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*, and other kids' programming favorites.

KAET's own award-winning programs includes, [HORIZON](#), our nightly public affairs show hosted by Phoenix attorney Michael Grant. *HORIZON* airs Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. KAET's latest weekly series, [HORIZONTE](#), provides a forum for Hispanic perspectives. Phoenix attorney José Cárdenas serves as host Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. The *Arizona Collection*, is KAET's continuing series of programs celebrating the people, places and history of Arizona.

KAET-TV/Channel 8 is a part of Arizona State University.

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