

INNOVATIVE VIDEOCONFERENCING PROJECT SNAPSHOTS

face-to-face with college recruiters

Leonor Felix, counselor at Central Union High School, has used videoconferencing to help her students meet, face-to-face, with representatives from the California State University system, the University of California, and private universities.

She's not alone: Holtville High School counselor Beatriz Zayas sought to increase access to "college knowledge" among Holtville Middle School students and parents. To that end, she employed a videoconferencing unit placed in an eighth grade social studies classroom.

Partnering with college officials, outreach program representatives, financial aid advisors, and other high school counselors, she has worked to increase the number of junior high school students who enter high school prepared to enroll in a college-prep curriculum.

a future for H₂O

Environmental Sciences teacher Therese George of San Pasqual High School has been able to engage her students in the study of water resource management by getting them to interact directly with local government agencies and regional water quality programs.

Designing her program to develop the students' knowledge and skills in the area of water pollution and monitoring, Ms. George has also partnered with colleges and universities, governmental agencies, and local water boards to bring the environmental issues directly into her classroom.



NATIVE VISIONS, DIGITAL DELIVERY

A cross-cultural education project designed to link elementary, middle, and high school students throughout Imperial County

with Native American tribal leaders, **Native Visions** is giving students an awareness and understanding of the cultural diversity of Native Americans as indigenous people in the Western Hemisphere.

The brainchild of Faron Owl, teacher of Native Studies at San Pasqual High School, Native Visions has featured tribal leaders and elders sharing songs, stories and customs of the Native people that normally would not be available to students, who are able to ask questions and interact with presenters.



writing prompts for all students

Holtville High School Technology Resource Teacher Brian Phillips has created a series of visual writing prompts for English Language Learner (ELL) students. Through the use of digital camcorders and iMovie, he created QuickTime videos that convey to the students writing prompts that invoke all the senses. To better communicate to all his students, he completed the videos with both English and Spanish translations, as well as the capability for subtitles for hearing impaired students. Through videoconferencing these resources are made available to other students.

swing kids

Debbie Buchanan, dance teacher at Southwest High School, and her students have been able to teach the basic steps of Swing dance to Roberto Barrera's sixth grade students at Heber School through videoconferencing. While students at both sites practiced their steps, they were also learning about the history of the Swing movement and were working together to learn more about each other.

partners by camera

The students of Julian High School's EAST program, guided by Cheryl Maisch, have begun to form working partnerships with students and adults outside of their school environment. These partnerships, forged over the digital connections of videoconferencing, have included assisting students at their district's continuation school with technology problems, and even working together on community-based projects.

writers' voices

Students in Kathie Francis' "Publications and Yearbook" classes at Imperial High School have used their writing and editing skills to mentor elementary students in producing their own newsletters.

Meeting three times a week via videoconferencing, the IHS students guided their sixth grade counterparts at Ben Hulse Elementary in editing and producing multiple drafts of content, culminating in material that was ready for publishing in site newsletters.

healthy bits

To help her Home Health Aide students complete their state certification requirements, Brawley Union High School teacher Ines Lovio Estrada brought together via videoconferencing her classes at both Brawley Union and Southwest High Schools and guest speakers in the field of home health care and with other professionals.



aesthetics and history

In a videoconference between Linda Start's art classes at Southwest High School and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, museum docents led the students on a virtual field trip in the study of American history and culture by exploring the museum's extensive holdings of American art.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORK WITH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN LITERARY ONE-TWO PUNCH

Under the tutelage of Central Union High School teacher Sharon Cordero, Imperial County high school students have begun working with elementary school children in a pair of innovative projects.

In the first, **Poetry Across the Curriculum**, the El Centro Poetry Club has worked with the Heber School District Migrant Writing Program to assist their students with writing and reciting poems.

The second project is a collaborative effort of Central Union High School students and Heber Elementary School students to produce a play based on "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." The high school students assisted their much younger colleagues in learning their lines and songs via videoconferencing. The kindergarteners, most of whom are English Language Learners (ELL), even helped construct the props and assisted in the final production of the play.



videoconferencing voilà!

Over the course of twelve weeks, students at Calipatria High School have each earned an elective credit in Conversational French by videoconferencing with Ms. Anne Castelain at Babilnet, an online French language institute based in France. Coordinated by Calipatria English teacher Luanna George, the meetings were held every Wednesday during lunch and were followed up with supplemental tutoring.

working for tips

The ICOE Department of Special Education is unique among school districts because its 27 teachers work at more than 15 school sites throughout the county to provide services to students with disabilities. As such, the teachers of Special Education often felt isolated. To combat this isolation, Elaine Duckworth of the Special Education department enhanced the department's TIPS (Teacher Instructional

Planning Strategies) program with videoconferencing.

The department has employed videoconferencing to share data and develop lesson plans in cohort teams through a structured set of guidelines, questions, and assignments. Participating teachers have also used their videoconferencing systems to participate in regular meetings such as Special Education's Program Support and ACA (Administrative Advisory Council) meetings, held monthly.

The students, too, have enjoyed the benefits of videoconferencing: students who are deaf or hard of hearing can communicate with individuals in other parts of the country through their primary language, American Sign Language. Special Education even has several virtual field trips planned and designed for the benefit of their hearing-impaired students.

Congratulations to all our IVP award winners!

Karla Arguelles	Holtville Middle School
David Avila	Holtville High School
Isaura Badillo	Mains Elementary
Roberto J. Barrera	Heber
Carol Bolton	M.L. King Elementary
Debbie Buchanan	Southwest HS
Sharon Cordero	Central Union HS
Mitchell Drye	Southwest HS
Elaine Duckworth	ICOE
Ines Lovio Estrada	Brawley HS
Leonor Felix	Central Union HS
Kathie Francis	Imperial High School
Loyal Frazier	Southwest HS
Luanna George	Calipatria HS
Therese George	San Pasqual High School
David Gupton	Calipatria HS
Dennis Haworth	Central Union HS
Thomas Hopper	Brawley HS
Carl Johnston	Holtville High School
Yvonne Keaton	Imperial High School
Herminia Leon	Mains Elementary
Tony Lambert	Heber
Cheryl Maisch	Julian High School
Lisa Mena	Heber
Faron Owl	San Pasqual High School
Lucio Padilla Jr.	Mains Elementary
Brian Phillips	Holtville High School
Anita Salcido	Southwest HS
Reyna Saldana	Southwest HS
Evelyn Shipman	Ben Hulse Elementary
Linda Storts	Southwest HS
Danny Valadez	Central Union HS
Elizabeth Willingham	Brawley Union HS
Beatriz Zayas	Holtville High School



Learning Technologies

Imperial County Office of Education
1398 Sperber Road
El Centro, CA 92243



The BorderLink Project
www.borderlink.org