

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRESS RELEASE

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Texas Capitol Schoolhouse Returns for 2013 Texas Legislative Session

Texas School for the Deaf Participates, Showcasing Educational Technology in Texas Classrooms

(AUSTIN) –February 4, 2013, High school students from the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) show off their skills for lawmakers today as the Texas Capitol Schoolhouse and the Capitol Schoolhouse Foundation facilitate actual high-tech school classrooms in the Capitol Rotunda basement using state-of-the-art educational technology, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

“Visitors to the Capitol today will see and experience technology currently in use by the best in Texas classrooms. Demonstrating their effective day-to-day --- everyday --- use of educational technology, teachers show how they are preparing students for the 21st century, Schoolhouse organizer and Executive Director, Dr. Deborah Jolly, said. Each time the event becomes more impressive as the technology students are using becomes more sophisticated.”

Legislators and invited guests have the opportunity to venture through the Texas Capitol Schoolhouse classrooms to observe and experience educational technology in use by teachers and students, first hand. Texas schools are invited, along with their teachers, to showcase the latest exceptional applications of educational technology being used in their schools today. Set up today in the Capitol as regular classrooms, teachers conduct class throughout the day, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., just as they do everyday in their home districts.

This year, utilizing PCs, Macs and mobile devices, students will demonstrate examples of online virtual learning environments, 1 to 1 laptop computing, and online interactive learning, while others work on full video production, develop educational gaming lessons, and exhibit their skills in robotics. Students from participating schools are using all forms of blended technology, games, simulations and personal learning environments.

“This year we are very excited about being involved with the National Digital Learning Week group to kick things off in the state of Texas. And, these students are eager to show their Representatives and Senators how these tools are used in the education processes of today, and how much they benefit from their use,” adds Jolly.

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TSD Superintendent, Claire Bugen, agrees. "Today's students will face challenges we haven't yet imagined, take jobs yet to be invented, and toil in a workplace constantly reshaped by the exponential progress of technology. For deaf and hard of hearing students at TSD, Bugen says, mastering skills using technology goes a long way in leveling the playing field when it comes to having fingertip access to information that allows them to ask the right questions, seek answers independently and maximize their potential as life-long learners. The power of technology for our visual learners in this digital age cannot be overstated."

TSD is participating among districts, including Amarillo ISD, Coleman ISD, Coppell ISD, Del Valle ISD, East Austin College Prep, Irving ISD, Klein ISD, Ysleta ISD, San Saba ISD, Pasadena Virtual School, and Texas Virtual Academy (remote sites).

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ABOUT THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (TSD)

The Texas School for the Deaf is the oldest continuously operating public school in Texas. Educating Deaf and Hard of Hearing students of Texas since 1856, the campus also provides outreach and educational resources for students, their families, and professionals in the field throughout the state of Texas. With educational excellence and a strong belief in a culture and community at TSD, students form a unique identity based on their individual strengths and talents, is an environment where they learn, grow, and belong. For more information about the Texas School for the Deaf, visit <http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/>.

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