

DATE: December 1, 1995
TO: Ed Tech Working Group
FROM: Paul Dimond
RE: An Interesting Idea FYI

I have attached an interesting proposal from Gary Beach on a proposed "Tech Corps Open" which would be sponsored by Silicon Graphics and Walt Disney. Something to think about as we move toward our outreach meeting next week.

To: khanson @ sgi.com @ internet
cc:
From: Gary Beach/Computerworld/US/IDG Net
Date: 11/04/95 08:22:51 AM
Subject: Tech Corps Open

Kathym:

Enjoyed our conversations yesterday. I was impressed by your comment during the conference call about the importance of "sharing curriculum ideas"

That inspired me to give you a call directly after the White House call and I was so pleased that we were able to talk. With your Disney contacts (Kathym, I have asked my office to fax you the letter I sent to Eisner about the idea), the Tech Corps Open, sponsored by SGI and Disney could become the country's leading archive of meaningful curriculum ideas VERY QUICKLY.

Situation Analysis

Ed/tech in the USA is in a chicken/egg situation. Most know that more needs to be done and that the technological infrastructure is weak when compared to American business. Do we train teachers? Do we donate computers to schools? Do we wire everyone for the net? The list of challenges is endless.

What business has taught us is this: meaningful applications drive the hardware, wiring etc decisions.

What the American education scene needs more than anything else right now is a rich database of applications - tried, tested and true by students and teachers - that can say to our educators 1)hey, you can do it too, 2)others are already doing it(some good ol fashion peer pressure) and3) have them run to school boards, PTA's etc DEMANDING the resources to do it

Hence, the background idea for the First Annual Tech Corps Open, sponsored by Silicon Graphics, Inc and Walt Disney Productions.

Implementation

Working with the NEA, the national PTA, the Tech Corps, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and others, a challenge would be issued to EVERY teacher AND student to enter the most meaningful lesson plan they have developed that incorporated a BASE LINE LEVEL of technology (you, Bud, the Disney folks and I could come up with those parameters in our first meeting on this idea)

The first year of this event would focus on K-6 levels. Why? I think it smart to focus on a smaller segment of the pie and because in a conversation with Eisner, Disney is focusing on this area for content development.

Educators and students could submit entries in the following five curriculum areas (by grade level)

- social studies
- math
- science
- geography
- english

Each entry would be required to explain in simple English HOW the application was developed, what tools were used, how long it took, what was learned doing it etc etc etc.

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Each entry would be submitted to one of seven panels of **NATIONALLY** known educators (a panel each for K-6).

The role of the panel would be two fold:

1. They would evaluate the entry to see if it passed the criteria of baseline incorporation of technology. If it did, the entry would be immediately posted on the Silicon Graphics Inc National Curriculum Archive (Kathryn, sounds pretty cool, doesn't it! Ed will love this!) for immediate usage by any other teacher in America
2. Each entry that made it on to the SGI National Curriculum Archive would receive a special Tech Corps Recognition Certificate noting the accomplishment of the team and how it impressed the panel of judges
3. The panel would be tasked with coming up with the **TOP THREE** apps who become finalists for the top award to be given out at the Annual American Teacher Awards

sponsored

by Disney.

with

4. Like the Baldrige Awards, the panel would be required to **VISIT** each of the finalists
the goal to pick the top app for the award.

Kathryn, I could go on but I think this gives you the picture.

Outcomes

The finalists and the top teacher in each K-6 level is the sizzle of the program. The **STEAK** is the SGI National Curriculum Archive that would give access to **EVERY TEACHER IN AMERICA** to download easy to use, already tested applications using technology.

Moreover, SGI and Tech Corps could replicate this program in **EVERY COUNTRY AROUND THE WORLD** where you have a meaningfully large customer base (UK, Germany, Australia etc)

Kathryn, I must admit I have goosebumps as I write this note.

It is **NOT** a question of **IF** you are going to do this, but a matter of **WHEN** we can get going on it!

Are you going to Comdex?

Please email me your reaction.

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