



NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts: Stephen Wakefield, Discovery Education
240-662-2893
stephen_wakefield@discovery.com

Emily Embury, C. Blohm & Associates
608-839-9806
emily@cblohm.com

Local Educator Advocates For the Use of Educational Technologies Across Texas

Texas Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council seeks to improve student achievement through the integration of educational technologies

Silver Spring, Md. (Date) – As blog coordinator for the Texas Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council, Elaine Plybon of Irving Independent School District organizes and encourages educators statewide to improve student achievement through the use of digital media and other educational technologies. Texas is one of the first states to organize a statewide Leadership Council. Discovery Educator Network Leadership Councils support teachers integrating educational technologies into instruction with training events, webinars and regular communications on emerging technologies and education innovations.

“Discovery Education appreciates Elaine for her leadership and hard work on the Texas Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council,” said Scott Kinney, Discovery Education Vice President of Outreach and Professional Development. “In schools across the state, pressure is building for educators to grow the critical thinking and problem solving skills today’s students need to compete in a 21st century global workforce. Elaine recognizes this trend and encourages teachers as they use educational technologies to improve student achievement.”

A strong advocate for the use of educational technology, Plybon has been a member of the Texas Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council since its inception. Serving as blog coordinator, she writes and posts articles to the Council’s blog that are useful and relevant, not only to Discovery Educator Network members, but to educators of all levels and subjects throughout the state and country. With a large readership base, the blog serves as a professional learning community for members to carry on conversations with other educators. Plybon also helps coordinate and facilitate a variety of regional professional development opportunities throughout the year for Discovery Educator Network members. The events aim to improve educators’ technology skills in the classroom through trainings and network opportunities with other educators in the state.

Plybon is also a member of Discovery Educator Network’s Second Life Leadership Council. Second Life is an Internet-based virtual world and home to cutting-edge online classrooms for schools, colleges and universities. She takes an active part in organizing and planning events, assisting newcomers and recruiting for the Council.

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“I’m a strong believer in the power of collaboration, and my experience has shown me that the Discovery Educator Network Leadership Council is one of the most powerful collaborative groups an educator could belong to,” said Plybon. “I am enthusiastic about the possibilities that await educators who join the most beneficial organization I have ever belonged to in my career.”

Plybon is currently a science instructional specialist for The Academy of Irving School District. In this position, she assists science teachers at her school in a variety of ways, including team teaching, assisting with labs, helping to find resources, demonstrating and instructing new teaching methods, and observing to find ways to improve or ways she can help other educators. Plybon also works with seniors who have not passed their science TAKS, in an effort to help them gain the knowledge they need to be successful the next time they retake the test. In addition, she teaches science classes in integrated physics and chemistry, where she tests new teaching methods before passing them on to other teachers in her school.

“Students have grown up using technology,” said Plybon. “They relate to things that have to do with technology so much more quickly than if we try using traditional methods. Instructing students using technology allows them to guide their own learning through inquiry, exploration and creativity.”

The Discovery Educator Network is a global community of educators who are excited by the power of digital media and want to collaborate and share resources with other educators. There are more than 26,000 active Discovery Educators across the world providing professional development to over 400,000 teachers.

To learn more about the Discovery Educator Network, visit <http://community.discoveryeducation.com>.

About Discovery Education

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