

iAssessment and Classroom Connect Form Strategic Alliance to Align Educator Skill Evaluation with Online Professional Development

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Companies partner to help ASSET fully integrate K-12 educator evaluation with professional development across the state of Arizona with efficient online solution

iAssessment, a leading provider of technology solutions for the K-12 education market, and Classroom Connect today announced a strategic alliance to integrate iAssessment's online educator evaluation system with Classroom Connect's award-winning professional development program.

The alliance aims to help institutions leverage technology to improve education and meet new requirements established by the No Child Left Behind Act. The companies accomplish this through streamlined, cost-effective online resources that tie professional development and curriculum planning to an educator's established skill level. The announcement was made in Dallas at the National School Boards Association's Technology + Learning conference.

iAssessment and Classroom Connect have partnered to help Arizona School Services through Education Technology (ASSET) closely align educator assessment results with relevant professional development resources. As a result, educators throughout Arizona have easy access to Classroom Connect's online professional development programs with a strong understanding of their own skill level and areas that need improvement.

"The iAssessment and Classroom Connect team has greatly assisted in the development of an efficient online system in Arizona that helps our educators first understand their skill levels and then select effective professional development programs to improve their abilities," said Kathryn Kilroy, executive director of ASSET. "This meets our goal of continually improving education in Arizona through training and by equipping our teachers with the best resources available."

Assessment-Driven Professional Development

iAssessment provides both online educator skill evaluation tools through its Diagnostic Learning System (DLS) and a comprehensive Web portal called the Gateway Presentation System (GPS) to provide easy access to online resources and to encourage collaboration among educators. The DLS educator evaluations help each institution understand which skills to build among its staff and then focus professional development efforts accordingly. The GPS system enables easy and intuitive access to assessment modules, informational resources and other applications, such as Classroom Connect programs, via the Web.

Classroom Connect provides a wealth of online professional development courses that help educators improve their teaching with technology skills and instructional strategies. The alignment of Classroom Connect products with iAssessment evaluation tools ensures that educators comprehend their professional development needs and choose resources that can help them gain new skills.

ASSET worked with Classroom Connect to create a series of professional development courses designed specifically for educators in Arizona. iAssessment's DLS program provided ASSET with a full knowledge of educator skill levels and those areas that needed improvement. This has helped ASSET determine which skills to develop among educators in Arizona and in turn has allowed ASSET to develop focused professional development programs with Classroom Connect.

"Arizona educators are the first to benefit from our work with iAssessment to create a cost-effective solution that includes educator skill assessment and targeted professional development," said Jim Bowler, vice president of marketing for Classroom Connect. "We believe that this new alliance established through our work for ASSET can be replicated to benefit other states and large districts."

"Our partnership with Classroom Connect closes the loop on the professional development process, leveraging a clear analysis of educator abilities and requirements first. This leads to highly targeted courses and resources that increase skill levels according to district, school and individual classroom needs," said Dan Cookson, co-founder of iAssessment. "This will save institutions from the high costs of running unproductive training courses that only benefit a few. Instead, all professional development efforts will be directed at those educators in need of training with highly relevant and beneficial course work."

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect, a business unit within Harcourt Education, is a leading provider of professional development programs and online instructional content for K-12 education. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, Classroom Connect has more than 170 employees. Its partners include some of the nation's most respected organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, the Library of Congress, The Franklin Institute Online, and NASA. For more information about Classroom Connect, visit the company's Web site at www.classroom.com.

About iAssessment

iAssessment helps educational institutions successfully implement Web-based systems and leverage digital resources to improve the overall quality of education. These client-customized solutions help manage assessment and professional development while meeting reporting, grant development and other school system requirements. The iAssessment Technology Framework combines proficiency assessment and ongoing professional development through its Diagnostic Learning System(TM) with online resource management. Its Gateway Presentation System(TM) is a site/role-based content delivery system that manages online knowledge resources, including data and applications. This helps schools, districts and state education departments analyze and understand institutional needs, promote knowledge and increase skill development with a focus on affecting positive change in the classroom. Based in Salt Lake City, Utah, iAssessment is helping improve education through more effective use and management of technology for over 380,000 educators. For more information, visit www.iassessment.com.

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