NERDC Assists with Education Technology Conference

UFIT

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The annual Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) took place March 6-8, 2002, in Orlando, Florida. Ron Schoenau, NERDC director, and Allan Pither, program development manager, both board members of the Florida Association of Educational Data Systems (FAEDS), attended this annual meeting.

FETC is one of the largest, most successful conferences in the United States devoted to educational technology. Programs offered at this gathering teach educators and administrators how to integrate technology into classroom instruction—from kindergarten to college—including exposure to the latest hardware, software and successful strategies to use technology with students.

This annual event began in 1981, when a few Florida teachers and administrators gathered to learn more about emerging technologies and how they could be used in the classroom to improve instruction. This year, more than 16,000 educators and vendors from Florida and around the world met in the Orange County Convention Center to explore the latest in educational technology. More than 200 hour-long concurrent sessions focused on the features, functions and benefits of technology and strategies on how to utilize it in the curriculum.

A panel of distinguished speakers from across the country spoke at this year's conference. The opening session keynote speaker was Faith Popcorn of BrainReserve, a marketing futurist and consumer trend expert. Other speakers included Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education; Jim Horne, Florida Secretary of Education; and Charlie Crist, Florida Department of Education Commissioner.

Schoenau and Pither presided over several sessions and helped out at the FAEDS booth. "It was a long, busy, and very useful conference," Pither said. "It was wonderful to have the
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opportunity to learn of emerging technologies that may be of interest to UF educators."

For more information on the conference and the organization, see http://www.fetc.org.

Your Comments are Welcome

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