

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Nevada School Districts Taking Part in Second Annual National  
Digital Learning Day on February 6**

*Students and Teachers Join Educators from Around the Country  
to Explore How Digital Learning Is Changing Education*

[February 6, 2013] – Teachers and administrators from Carson, Clark, and Washoe County School Districts as well as representatives of the Nevada Department of Education, the Nevada Commission on Educational Technology, and KNPB Channel 5 are joining tens of thousands of educators, millions of students, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and U.S. Chief Technology Officer Todd Park in partnering with the Alliance for Excellent Education on February 6 for the second annual national Digital Learning Day. Digital Learning Day is a day of events that celebrates teachers and shines a spotlight on successful instructional technology practice in the classroom. The centerpiece of Digital Learning Day is the national Digital Town Hall being simulcast live from the Newseum in Washington, DC.

Digital Learning Day is a national campaign to improve teaching and learning that began in 2012. This year's Digital Town Hall will highlight effective digital learning strategies from schools in Arizona, California, Florida, and Pennsylvania. Additionally, Digital Learning Day will, for the first time, incorporate hands-on instructional demonstrations on digital learning content areas, such as math, science, civics/social studies, and English language arts. Secretary Duncan is participating in the teacher demonstrations and interactive lessons and will be featured in the Digital Town Hall via video.

States and school districts are planning a variety of activities to promote the use of digital learning; highlighting promising practices within and among states; showcasing student work through digital learning; and conducting lesson plan contests for teachers.

As part of Nevada's Digital Learning Day celebration, students and educators will demonstrate successful classroom digital learning practices to the public in the foyer of the Legislative Building in Carson City on February 6 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.. Students and teachers from Spanish Springs High School in Sparks will showcase the C3 Media Academy that trains students in print, web, and video production. In partnership with KNPB Channel 5, students from Reno High School will showcase their Redhouse Project where students generate community awareness by producing public service announcements for local non-profit agencies. Middle school students from Carson City and Clark County School Districts will connect through Skype and display how technology bridges geographic boundaries and creates learning opportunities that would not be possible otherwise. Students from Fritsch Elementary School in Carson City will showcase digital literacy skills by creating a digital picture story and using

multiple editing applications to customize each picture. Members from the Nevada Commission on Educational Technology will present evidence of their support for successful digital learning in Nevada including information on State Technology Grants, the Nevada 1:1 Plan, and the Nevada Technology Needs Assessment.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of Nevada’s educational successes to the public. We hope to expand understanding of the enthusiasm and creativity technology brings out in this generation of learners. Well-implemented classroom technology fosters students’ digital literacy that in turn prepares students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school,” said Kimberly Vidoni, educational programs professional, Nevada Department of Education.

So far forty-nine states and the District of Columbia, and nearly 20,000 teachers, representing almost 4 million students, have signed up to participate in digital learning activities throughout the day and beyond. The 2013 Digital Learning Day builds on last year’s inaugural event that included participation by thirty-nine states, 15,000 teachers, and 1.7 million students.

“Digital learning represents a launch pad for enormous educational innovation that offers all children an excellent education with twenty-first-century skills,” said Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. “All school districts, regardless of their size or makeup, stand to benefit from this teaching and learning technology revolution. That’s why the Alliance is bringing together students, teachers, school leaders, and many others on Digital Learning Day to show the best practices in the use of classroom technology and move forward with a national digital learning agenda.”

### **Digital Learning Day Activities**

- **Nevada School Districts Showcase:** Students and educators from Carson City, Clark County, and Washoe County School Districts will demonstrate successful classroom digital learning practices in the foyer of the Legislative Building in Carson City on February 6 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m..
- **2013 Digital Town Hall:** Attended by prominent national education and policy leaders and simulcast live at <http://wpc.1806.edgecastcdn.net/001806/ae/dld.html> on February 6, the national Digital Town Hall will profile teachers, students, schools, and districts that are implementing digital learning in innovative and successful ways. Districts that will be highlighted include
  - ♦ Dysart Unified School District (Surprise, AZ and El Mirage, AZ);
  - ♦ Quakertown Community School District (Quakertown, PA); and
  - ♦ Cajon Valley Union School District (El Cajon, CA).
- **Digital Learning in Action:** Nearly 150 educators will experience lesson plans and examples of successfully implementing interactive digital learning content and instructional strategies that utilize digital learning in the classroom. Geared toward educators and others wanting to know more about specific approaches to digital learning, these hands-on teaching

and learning sessions will be led by teachers from the Washington, DC metro area and will be posted online for use by other teachers around the country. Areas of focus for these instructional lessons include

- ♦ digital content areas for math, science, civics/social studies, and English language arts;
- ♦ problem-based learning;
- ♦ flipping the classroom—using time more efficiently by having students watch videos of lectures as homework and freeing up classroom time for more individualized, robust and engaging instruction;
- ♦ mobile learning and online tools to support blended and face-to-face instruction; and
- ♦ new trends in assessment, including digital portfolios and instant feedback using ongoing, informal “quizzes” to improve each student’s cognition.

The Alliance invites everyone with a stake in improving the nation’s education outcomes—teachers, librarians, school leaders, afterschool program coordinators, community group members, students, and parents—to participate in the February 6 Digital Learning Day activities.

Digital Learning Day boasts support from nearly [fifty national core partners](#) made up of education leadership organizations as well as generous support from nearly [twenty companies](#).

Visit [www.DigitalLearningDay.org](http://www.DigitalLearningDay.org) for ideas about how students, parents, administrators and others can participate. Follow the action on the Digital Learning Day [Twitter](#) page, with the #DLDay hashtag, and on the Digital Learning Day [Facebook](#) page.