

PRESS RELEASE

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WOODBINE SHARES IN \$2 MILLION TALENT21 GRANT

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that Woodbine's Educational Advisor, Dena Hartigan, was instrumental in the Bridgeton Consortium which has been awarded the Talent21 grant from the NJ Department of Education. The Talent21 grant has a total of \$1,960,000 for the advancement and enhancement of technology in the classroom.

As a result, the Woodbine Elementary School will be receiving funding for 19 months for technical services and hardware supplies to make the learning environment fully wireless for the students. Twenty five percent of the grant funding is for the professional development of teachers. Students in grades 6 and 7 will receive net books that can go home or anywhere the student continues to learn after school hours. Included are the Woodbine Community Center and the Puerto Rican Action Committee site which will also be turned into wireless internet environments through grant funds. The grant activities start in February 2010 and commence in September 2011.

"Dena Hartigan has been instrumental in obtaining a number of grant-funded programs for the Woodbine School District," noted Mayor Pikolycky, "and she is persistent in making both the Borough and the School District aware of upcoming grant opportunities. These programs provide additional educational resources to the community. Any further questions concerning Talent21, please contact Dena Hartigan at denahartigan@comcast.net or call 609-268-8400."

The Bridgeton School District is leading a consortium of four South Jersey school districts for a total of six elementary schools to plan and implement a remarkable opportunity for 405 high needs sixth grade students. The Bridgeton, Buena, Woodbine, and Fairfield School Districts are partners committed to providing the necessary support that will enhance, expand and sustain the integration of technology in the classroom with seed funding from the Teaching and Learning with Essential New Technologies in the 21st Century (TALENT21) grant.

Each of the districts is in a parallel pathway to boost the skills of their students to meet the ever evolving 21st century global needs. Using a logic model of existing infrastructure, current issues, potential inputs and desired outcomes, the districts will design plans that lead to the implementation of classroom instructional methodology that utilizes shared services including but not limited to designing technology, intensive professional development, policies that protect, technicians, evaluation and internet access.

Students in grade 6 in Phase I and Phase II, and students in grade 7 in Phase II will use mobile computing devices known as net books in the classrooms as well as beyond the classrooms. The one-to-one wireless classroom environment will be fully equipped to make access to learning on the internet seamless both by the teachers and the students. Students and teachers will learn through problem based learning themes to use the internet to reach beyond the textbook and beyond the classroom walls .These skills will help to “Develop a world-class workforce.”