



Teaching American History with Writing & Technology

Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Grant for 2005-07

SAUSD has been awarded \$4,215,938 for its competitive EETT grant entitled *Teaching American History with Writing & Technology (TAHW&T)*. **The purpose of the grant is to use technology to improve students' English Language Arts and History Social/Studies proficiency by having students increase the quantity and quality of writing in their American History classes.** The *TAHW&T* project addresses student learning by integrating two research-based programs: (1) *MY Access!* online essay writing and scoring provided by *Vantage Learning* and (2) *Challenge 2000*, a program which helps teachers integrate writing and technology into the existing American History curriculum. The following SAUSD schools have been selected to participate in this program which will be administered by the Educational Technology Department: Carr, Lathrop, Mac Arthur, McFadden, Mendez, Sierra, Spurgeon, Taft, Villa, and Willard. In Year 2 the grant will expand to include 5th grade students at the above schools.

The *TAHW&T* project will be implemented over two years. It will begin with teachers currently involved in the Teach American History (TAH) program (a collaborative program between SAUSD and UCI). These teachers will receive an additional 40 hours of staff development focused on developing standards-based American History lessons that include student created presentations, newsletters, brochures, and Web Pages using curriculum from the *Intel Teach to the Future* program. Lessons developed during these 40 hours will be posted on the SAUSD web site.

To implement the project teachers will receive a laptop computer for the teacher, networkable printer, projector and a cart with 20 laptops to be placed in their classrooms. Staff development will be ongoing throughout Year 1 as Curriculum Specialists (Teachers on Special Assignment) work with Year 1 teachers to implement the use of the laptop carts in their American History classes. Teachers will also be trained throughout the year to increase the number of essays students write in the Social Studies classroom. Essays will be evaluated using *MY Access!* on-line essay scoring. In Year 2 additional 8th grade American History and 5th grade teachers will receive intensive training prior the beginning of the school year. They will also receive the equipment (laptop computer, printer, projector, laptop carts) to implement the technology in the American History curricula. Teachers who participated in Year 1 will participate in Year 2 and support the additional Year 2 teachers as they implement the program.