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Chapter 28

Education Technology Review Center, Director - Sharon Lantz - What is E.T.R. C. and How Has It Impacted Education in Louisiana?

Transcript

Title Card: What is the ETRC and how has it impacted education in Louisiana?

Sharon Lantz – Director of the ETRC: The Educational Technology Review Center, or we like to commonly call it the ETRC, was opened in 1991. The funding came through a legislative grant. An advisory board, which was comprised of K through 12 educators, business leaders, community personnel, educators, administrators, they define the mission of the Educational Technology Review Center as a place to provide state of the art technology in K through 12. Over the years we have decided to also encompass and make it K through 16.

The first director of the ETRC was Dr. Carol Wayland. She has since moved to the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology in Baton Rouge. I came on board as a graduate student in 1994 through a BellSouth grant and was lucky enough to be hired by Carol to be Project Director when I graduated in 1996 and then became Interim Director and Director in 1997.

We've had a lot of different projects over the years. These include one that I'm most proud of is our software preview center. We have over 300 pieces of software that teachers can come in and preview before they buy. In addition to teachers, community people can come in, administrators, parents, anybody who would like to look at software before they buy.

Some other projects that the ETRC has worked on through the years is the development of educational CD-ROMs. The first one was OSAGE or Oil Spill Awareness Through Geoscience Education. This was done in cooperation with NLU, who wrote the curriculum, USL, who put together the electronic curriculum and then LSU, who did the artwork for the digipack. The latest one is "Knee Deep in Louisiana Wetlands". This curriculum is geared toward middle school and a lab pack will be sent to every middle school in the state and every library.

Lastly, we are working right now with the College of Education to help modernize student information accounting through the use of technology. In addition, we will make sure that every faculty in the College of Education has a webpage and that all syllabi will be online.

And the very last thing that we're working on is this CD-ROM that you're looking at now. We are helping the Academic Showcase for the College of Education. In particular, Ed Dugas put together this CD to highlight the history of the College of Education and the many people that have attributed to its rich history.