

## CERTIFICATION MORE AFFORDABLE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH MICROSOFT OFFICE SPECIALIST CLASSROOM LICENSE

As the United States treads through a recession, the nation's schools have borne the brunt of budget cuts in almost every state. A recent American Association of School Administrators survey of 453 school districts in 45 states found that one-third of the districts are looking at eliminating summer school this year. Fourteen percent are considering going to four-day weeks, and 62 percent anticipate increasing class size next year.

Many educational product and service providers are working to create affordable options for institutions with very little money to spend on anything beyond teachers and textbooks.

Certification is one area that might suffer, but Microsoft and Certiport have come up with a money-saving solution. They are now offering education customers a one-year Microsoft Office Specialist Classroom License for a flat fee to streamline tight budgets and allow more students to certify. With the new Classroom License, secondary education institutions can conduct unlimited Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) 2007 exams in one classroom with up to 30 computers.

Previously, academic institutions paid a per-test fee for the MOS 2007 exam. The new license allows schools to streamline the approval process and certify

more students at a lower cost.

"The Classroom License will allow secondary education institutions to expand and implement testing across all of their programs and courses, instead of having to limit the offering due to budget constraints," explained Quinn Sutton, Senior Vice President, Certiport.

Oak Park High School in Southern California recently took advantage of the MOS Classroom License to ease budget pains while continuing to prepare their students for advanced education and the workplace.

When computer technology instructor Erik Amerikaner was hired in 2007, his plan to implement a Microsoft Office certification program hit a funding roadblock.

While searching for economical solutions that might fit into a tight school budget, Amerikaner helped solidify an articulation agreement with nearby Moorpark College to accept Microsoft



Word and PowerPoint certification for college credit and priority registration for Oak Park graduates. With administration support and a new articulation agreement in

place, Amerikaner turned to the new Classroom License offering from Certiport to help ease the budgeting pains.

Amerikaner got his software upgrade and Microsoft Office certification program under way last fall. He has helped certify more than 300 students between Oak Park and his last school, and there's little chance of him slowing down now, especially when he's seen the benefit to students.

"They're expected to come out of high school with basic computer technology proficiency, and the Microsoft Office certification proves that," Amerikaner said.

For more information, contact Brenda Armstrong at 801-602-0305, visit [www.certiport.com/mos2007](http://www.certiport.com/mos2007) or stop by booth 2311.

### Cyber-Anatomy (Con't. from p. 1)

instruction. Teachers are relying more and more on computer technology to educate. Computer-based lab sessions are evolving to work hand-in-hand with this instruction. With the advent of 3-D technology, there are new opportunities for dramatic improvements in science education. Interactivity is vital to realizing this improvement. There is precious little truly interactive 3-D content available for the modern classroom. We are very proud that our Cyber Science 3-D product line is filling this gap. You can see our content not only at our booth, but also in the booths of major 3-D equipment suppliers such as Texas Instruments. Along with strong and supportive feedback we have received from educators using our system, this shows that we have something pretty special.

**ESD:** So if a school isn't wired for 3-D, then I guess they're out of luck with regard to your products.

**RL:** There is no doubt that the 3-D experience adds significantly to a teacher's ability to deliver instruction, and a student's ability to understand the importance of spatial relationships in subjects like anatomy, biology and botany. But we have a number of success stories with teachers using our software on traditional [2-D] projectors and interactive whiteboards, and with students effectively using our simulations on traditional computer systems as well. For us, it is the interactivity that brings the product to life and that makes such a positive impact on student performance.

**ESD:** Do you have documentation

showing how your software benefits student performance?

**RL:** Dr. Robert Tallitsch, a biology Professor at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., has received a National Science Foundation grant to test classroom effectiveness of our 3-D human anatomy software. This study is giving us great insight into what works with our current approach, and which directions we can take the product to make an even bigger impact in the future. We have also partnered with several K-12 school districts and community colleges across the county on pilot programs to get feedback on our entire product line.

**ESD:** What age group is your target audience?

**RL:** We have a wide range of simulations

with varying degrees of complexity that make the product suitable for younger elementary classes all the way through advanced placement courses. We have distributed our gold standard Cyber-Anatomy product to medical schools throughout the United States and internationally, we are also receiving a lot of interest for the product in advanced placement high school courses and first and second year college biology courses as well. The system's intuitive design allows the broad range of students to quickly master the simulations. This ease of use also encourages the greatest degree of interaction between students and teachers during instruction.

You can visit Cyber-Anatomy at ISTE booth 2071, or online at [www.cyber-anatomy.com](http://www.cyber-anatomy.com) and [www.cyberscience3d.com](http://www.cyberscience3d.com).

### Promethean (Con't. from p. 1)

market for interactive education technology solutions. Our aim is to unlock the potential of human achievement in education and training by developing and supporting leading edge, interactive learning technology and by encouraging the growth of the world's largest online teacher community in this field, Promethean Planet. The ActivClassroom features our state-of-the-art interactive display systems [ActivBoard], hand-held Learner Response Systems [ActiVote and ActiExpression], and suite of specialized teaching software [ActivInspire]. Each of these components are changing how teachers and classes engage and interact, how students learn and how they are monitored and assessed.

**ESD:** What would you say makes your company unique?

**ME:** What makes Promethean stand out is our focus on creating complete solutions to support teachers. For years, we have worked in partnership with educators around the world to develop education solutions that are transforming classrooms, inspiring teachers and engaging students. Our

suite of interactive classroom technologies—the ActivClassroom—has been proven to successfully boost student achievement.

**ESD:** What was the most significant event or series of events affecting your company in the past year?

**ME:** As technology evolves, so do our solutions. One of the most recent contributions we have made to education is the introduction of tools that promote self-paced learning. Using our software and our learner response system—ActiExpression—teachers can assign full quizzes of varying difficulty and give students the opportunity to register answers at their own pace. They can also alter the assignment's length of time to challenge learners.

**ESD:** What is self-paced learning and how is it driving change in education?

**ME:** Simply put, it is differentiated instruction. At Promethean, we support teachers who need and want the ability to customize instruction to target specific learning needs of students. Using ActiExpression devices and our software program, ActiInspire, teachers send question sets to individual handheld devices and students can respond

at their own pace. As they answer correctly, the questions get progressively harder. A teacher 'dashboard' shows student responses and provides an opportunity for 'real-time' assessment. Teachers can then take this important information and adapt their lessons instantly in accordance with the needs of students.

**ESD:** What products do you see as being hottest this year?

**ME:** The most effective new products are ones that advance the overall teaching and learning experience. In addition to equipping teachers with tools to deliver self-paced learning, there will be surge in digital content and seamless integration of this content into daily activities. We recognize how important it is for educators to collaborate and share best practices and resources, which is why we created Promethean Planet. With more than 600,000 members, Promethean Planet is the world's largest online interactive whiteboard community and is a place where teachers collaborate on best practices using interactive technologies and share digital content to better engage students.

### Did You Know?

• Promethean's ActivClassroom

technology is today helping educate more than 12 million individuals in more than 500,000 classrooms in some 100 countries across the world.

- With sales of more than 2.6 million, Promethean is the world's leading provider of Learner Response Systems for primary and secondary schools.

- Promethean Planet is free to join, supported in 10 languages and contains more than 16,000 fully customizable lesson resources, including premium content from leading publishers such as Dorling Kindersley, National Geographic, Harper Collins and Oxford University Press.

- Promethean's award-winning Acti-Inspire software is available in multiple platforms (Windows, Mac and Linux) and in 22 languages.

Learn more about the ActivClassroom, build your own classroom, get pricing and find your local partner at [www.prometheanworld.com/myactivclassroom](http://www.prometheanworld.com/myactivclassroom). Join the world's largest interactive whiteboard community at [www.prometheanplanet.com](http://www.prometheanplanet.com).

Visit booth 1110 for more information or call Customer Connections at 866-467-7918, option 2 or e-mail [us.customerconnections@prometheanworld.com](mailto:us.customerconnections@prometheanworld.com).