



NEWS

Office of University Relations

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WICAT DONATES \$1 MILLION IN SOFTWARE TO WKU PARTNERSHIP

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University has received a gift of more than \$1 million in educational software for its Educational Technology Center.

Western has received the entire line of WICAT software, which will be used to expand a partnership that helps prepare teacher education students for the use of technology in the classroom, according to Dr. Leroy Metze, director of educational technology at Western.

The partnership was formed in 1992 between Western, Jostens Learning Corp., Tandy Corp., Apple Computers and three local school districts: Bowling Green, Warren County and Simpson County. Metze said the purpose of the partnership is to develop a national model for the integration of technology into teacher education.

Jostens Learning has donated more than \$700,000 in computer equipment and software while Tandy has given Western more than \$43,000 in computer equipment. These donations, with the support of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and Dean Carl Martray, allowed for the creation of the Educational Technology Center.

Metze said WICAT's addition to the partnership will allow Western to place appropriate software in additional partner schools. Consultants have been made available to work with the University to provide appropriate staff development on the use of the software and its integration into the curriculum, he said.

The partnership allows professors in Western's Teacher Education program to demonstrate and teach about the use of technology in instruction, Metze said.

"Students are offered theory, practice and hands-on instruction in the use of instructional technology, the integration of technology into curriculum and how to select appropriate technology," he said.

After receiving instruction on campus, students receive practical experience in elementary, middle or secondary classrooms, Metze said. "These living laboratories allow students in the Teacher Education program to experience and work with the instructional technology they have learned about on Western's campus."

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