Santa Clara County Office of Education

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: Ken Blackstone
(408) 453-6514

Tech-savvy teachers flock to SCCOE's EdTech Innovation Summit

SAN JOSE, CA – 400 educators gathered at Union Middle School today for the Santa Clara County Office of Education's EdTech Innovation Summit, a day of world-class professional learning designed to help districts discover and share the best technological tools for helping students master challenging Common Core standards. The event is just one of the many ways in which the SCCOE is supporting districts in the effort to create dynamic classrooms that prepare students to navigate the technologies and career paths of the future.

"With its emphasis on collaboration and cutting-edge classroom practices to engage all learning styles, the EdTech Innovation Summit is an exciting way to kick off the new academic year," said County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry. "There is no better time for us to think boldly and dream big about the learning opportunities that will prepare our students for the 21st century."

What started last year as an event for 150 attendees at the SCCOE has more than doubled in size due to participant demand, featuring nearly 50 sessions on topics such as paperless classrooms, integrating the arts into a technology-rich curriculum, and effective research in the digital age. The entire afternoon was devoted to "ed-camps," opportunities for teachers to "crowdsource" inspiration and solutions based on common areas of interest. Though similar professional learning events can cost participants between $300-450 in registration fees, thanks to the partnership of the San Mateo County Office of Education and five local school districts, the Summit was offered free of charge to all attendees.

"I attended last year as well, and the thing I really liked is that I was learning from people in the classroom who had lots of practical ideas for things I could put to use right away," said attendee Mary Fran Lynch from Union School District. "I'm also a trainer, so I can take everything here back to my district and help other teachers use it in their classrooms."

The Summit is one piece of the SCCOE's larger efforts to promote the strategic importance of technology in the classroom. Last week the office hosted partnered with the U.S. Department of Education, the California Attorney General's Office and other nonprofits to host a student data privacy workshop designed to help educators keep student information safe. In October, the SCCOE will co-host the EdSurge Tech for Schools Summit at the Computer History Museum, and throughout the year districts can take advantage of customized professional development across a variety of technology-related topics. For more information, visit the EdTech Services page of the SCCOE website.