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**Contact: Susan Klimchak, House Leadership Communications, 502-564-5565
Henry Hunt, Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, 502-292-6722**

Teachers Earn New Computers for Area Schools.

Frankfort, KY: Rep. Rick Nelson, (D-Middlesboro), today announced that Bell, Pineville Independent and Middlesboro Independent school districts have earned over \$1.5 million worth of computer workstations as part of a program created by Rep. Nelson and other legislators to support education and research in the state.

Teachers earned computers for their classroom and their district based primarily on their successful participation in a series of workshops. Educators learned how to create web sites, movies and podcasts to use with their students. District technicians earned additional workstations by attending classes that enhanced their ability to support advanced applications in the schools.

According to Rep. Nelson this is all part of a unique program run by Kentucky-based Dataseam, which places new computers in schools for everyday classroom use and then networks those same computers together so scientists can use the processing power to do important discovery work. Researchers from the University of Louisville's James Graham Brown Cancer Center have already discovered several potential life-saving cancer drugs using this process.

"It is not only a good way to get more resources into the schools for our children," said Neslon, "but this program ensures that teachers get the proper training and a chance to work with the technology so they can make the most use of it during the school year."

Rep. Nelson points out that these computers are provided on top of the regular school budget in order to provide new technology and opportunity for students in the area. The program also provides college scholarship opportunities and other career programs for area students and teachers. Students from Middlesboro visited recording studios in Louisville last Spring and teachers are attending Western Kentucky University multi-media workshops later this month.

"We have to find innovative ways to advance education opportunities for the kids in our state. This program puts hundreds of new computers in our schools; advances important job creating research; gives teachers more tools; and brings new opportunities for our teachers and students," said Nelson.

"For this school year Dataseam is bringing the district more than triple the amount of technology than our normal state allocation provides. That is a significant benefit to our students and teachers," said Bell County School District Superintendent George Thompson.

“The computers help engage our students with exciting projects like newscast, videos and podcast,” said Middlesboro Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Rita Cook. “It is also important to realize the role we play in cancer research.”

“This helps our teachers keep up with the latest technology and communicate with students in new and exciting ways,” said Pineville Independent School District Superintendent Michael White.