

Hancock County Schools' Technology Leaders Speak at Dataseam Conference

Louisville, Kentucky - Hancock County Schools District's Chief Information Officer ,Greg Payne, and district Network Technician, David Blair, recently had the opportunity to inspire other educators with the district's pioneering program using iPads to transform teaching and learning. Payne and Blair were featured speakers at the Dataseam Annual Conference along with University of Louisville president, James Ramsey and selected educators from Jackson Independent, the Department of Education, Morehead State University and Dataseam.

More than 140 educators from Dataseam Participating school districts gathered together to learn how technology plays a critical role in educating students in 21st Century Skills required with Kentucky's new standards and assessments.

"Our only goal is that kids learn," Payne said. "We are the groundbreakers with our program that provides each of our high school students with an iPad ." Hancock County's program is the first in the state and one of the larger implementations in the country.

Payne said, "The iPads put the world at our students' fingertips. They get their homework with their iPads and email completed work back to their teachers. It is reducing the need for textbooks and has dramatically reduced the paper wasted on printed materials. Above all, it is greatly increasing self-directed learning."

The iPads also are proving to be important tools in teaching students 21st Century Skills required by Kentucky's new standards and assessments. "We are leveling the playing field by making sure each student has access to the same technology," according to Blair. "As a result, all of our high school students are certain to be better prepared for college and careers."

"After spending time with the district leadership and instructional staff I knew this was a well thought through implementation with real educational value. It would not end up to be technology for technology's sake. I knew this was something the other Dataseam partner districts needed to see," said Brian Gupton, Dataseam CEO. According to Gupton the presentation was very well received.

Dataseam is a unique Kentucky Company that has provided more than 15,000 computers to 48 school districts in coal producing counties. The school computers are linked together into one of the world's largest computing grids to support cutting-edge research at UofL's James Graham Brown Cancer Center. Harnessing the power of the DataseamGrid, researchers are working on more than 140 different cancer targets.