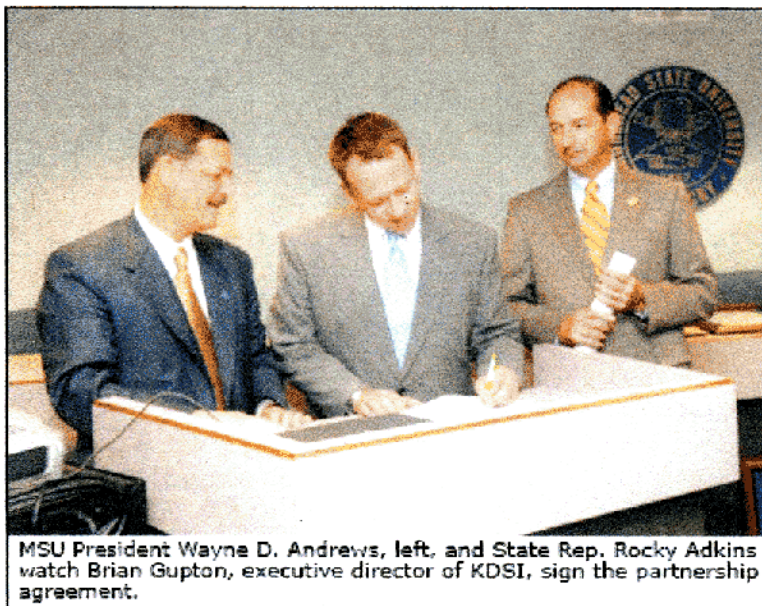


News

Statewide research initiative signed at MSU

Morehead State University today became the newest partner in a statewide technology program linking thousands of K-12 public school computers into a computing grid to support scientific research projects at Kentucky's universities.



MSU President Wayne D. Andrews, left, and State Rep. Rocky Adkins watch Brian Gupton, executive director of KDSI, sign the partnership agreement.

MSU and the [Kentucky Dataseam Initiative \(KDSI\)](#) a non-profit technology corporation based in Louisville and operating in 32 school districts, announced and signed the partnership agreement during a meeting of the University's Board of Regents.

"This is an incredible opportunity for us to help our public school colleagues better utilize educational technology in their instruction while we participate in some of the most exciting research underway in Kentucky," said MSU President Wayne D. Andrews. "We are proud to partner with Kentucky Dataseam and Apple in this historic enterprise."

State Rep. Rocky Adkins, who sponsored legislation in 2004 to devote state coal severance funds to support the initiative in coal-producing counties, described Thursday's announcement as "another giant step forward in realizing Kentucky's educational and economic potential."

Adkins noted that 16 school districts in MSU's 22-county service region already have received new Apple computers through Dataseam and that MSU is well positioned to provide the summer workshops needed to help K-12 teachers become proficient in using new computers and educational software.

Dr. Cathy Gunn, dean of MSU's College of Education, described the objectives of the workshops to be offered at four locations in the region.

"Teachers participating in this program will focus on technology to enhance and advance teaching and learning through the use of exciting media and Web applications that are motivators for today's P-12 students," she said. "This project provides a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with Apple Computer and Dataseam to provide Kentucky teachers with professional development in educational technology applications."

Brian Gupton, executive director of the Kentucky Dataseam Initiative, said of the agreement with MSU: "We are pleased to welcome Morehead State into the partnership. It will be important to help educate teachers to better view and provide instruction in the sciences as vocational opportunity. This, and increased integration of technology into instruction, will better prepare the region's students to participate in the next-generation economy."

In addition to the teacher workshops and research opportunities, MSU communications students are producing a 20-minute video documentary intended to motivate middle school students and their parents to use computer-based technology.

With more than 2,000 computer processors already in service, the KDSI Grid is one of the country's largest research computing grids. The company is on schedule to have more than 4,000 processors operational by mid-summer.

The James Graham Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville has been testing the grid and running research since May 2004. Dr. John O. Trent, director of the Center's Molecular Modeling Facility has been a key collaborator in developing the program and conducting groundbreaking drug discovery work. By using the additional computing power, the center can reduce the run times for certain research projects from years to weeks

and now has the capacity to investigate 18 additional cancer drug targets.

By the end of July, Dataseam expects to make computing power available to additional state university scientists pursuing important research with commercial applications.

The program is funded primarily by the Kentucky Department of Commercialization and Innovation within the Cabinet for Economic Development. It is designed to produce new technologies, high tech jobs and increase the attractiveness of Kentucky's workforce to high tech companies.

Thirty of 52 school districts in coal-producing counties are eligible to receive as many as 100 new computers at no cost. In return, they agree to let the Dataseam Initiative channel the computing power of their machines, when not in use, to the computing grid. More than 2,000 computers will be provided as part of the program. Several non-coal counties are participating in the program by contributing computing time, but are not eligible to receive computers through this program.

Schools who participate in the Kentucky Dataseam Initiative will receive visits from university research scientists. Their goal will be to help students understand their role in scientific progress, and promote scientific careers. In the future, live online classes, Web chats and other high-speed Internet enabled education opportunities are being planned for the K-12 students.

In the fall of 2006, participating districts will receive supplemental science curriculum benchmarked to Kentucky standards and provided by the National Institute of Health. Teachers will also receive additional training as part of the program.

Apple Computer was selected to provide primarily eMac computers running the OSX operating system desired by researchers who are running the research programs. Teachers in K-12 schools are excited about the extensive graphic and educational capabilities.



MSU service region school districts participating in the Kentucky Dataseam Initiative include Boyd County, Breathitt County, Carter County, Elliott County, Greenup County, Fairview Independent, Floyd County, Jackson Independent, Johnson County, Lawrence County, Martin County, Menifee County, Morgan County, Paintsville Independent, Raceland Independent, and Russell Independent.

Posted: 6-15-06

Address:

11 Allie Young
Morehead, KY 40351

Contact:

 Phone: 606.783.2030
 Fax: 606.783.2351

Email:

news@moreheadstate.edu

