

## **Apple Educational Foundation awarded a grant of 24 computers and peripherals to the Teacher Education Program to support the "Intercultural Learning Network" project**

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The Apple Educational Foundation has awarded a grant of 24 Apple IIe computers and peripherals to the Teacher Education Program at the University of California, San Diego to support a unique "Intercultural Learning Network" project.

The project connects high school and college students in San Diego, Alaska, Tijuana, Mexico City, Tokyo, and Jerusalem, in an electronic network designed to help them gain an understanding of each other and of themselves. It is coordinated by Dr. Margaret M. Riel, an assistant research psychologist in the Interactive Technology Laboratory at UCSD.

The grant gives the project four Apple computers, printers and modems for each of the six sites. The San Diego location will be a class at the Lincoln Middle School in Vista taught by Barbara Miller-Souviney.

"The plan is for college students to work with high school students helping them carry out social science projects," Riel said. "These projects can provide motivating environments for learning about one's own culture in contrast to other cultures while helping students gain skills in reading, writing, the use of technology, and research methods."

UCSD students in a class taught by Jim Levin are currently working with other college students on the network to plan the social science projects. One of the projects which will get underway in the near future is a cross-age, cross-generational study of career aspirations.

"In this project," Riel explained, "The high school students at each of the locations will interview their grandparents and parents about their career aspirations and the jobs they actually ended up doing, then compare these with their own career aspirations."

The data from each of the sites will be stored in a computer data program and shared electronically with all of the other sites, with the college students translating the languages where necessary.

"The high school students can then pose questions which could be answered by this data bank," Riel said. "For example, students may want to look at sex differences, changes in women's roles, or cultural patterns."

"The goal of this project will be to have high school students write up their data in a form that will be interesting enough to be published," Riel continued. "The notion is to get the kids involved in a whole task. They're not just doing this as an exercise. They're doing it to find out information and share it with other people."

Some of the other projects planned are an analysis of the content of newspapers and news reporting at each of the sites, a comparison of the educational systems, and a genealogy-migration study.

"We're exploring a new way of doing education," Riel said. "We're actually going back to many of the things (John) Dewey said. We're trying to bring society into the schools and make them places where kids learn about what it means to be important members of society. Technology provides a potential for reorganizing instruction that hasn't been available before."

(February 19, 1985) For more information contact: Paul Lowenberg, 452-3120