Technology Training That Utilizes Technology

How can a teacher give useful, one-on-one instruction in the constantly shifting landscape of technology? One in Idaho found the perfect solution with LearnKey.

Background:
Gooding High School is an ambitious school located in the heart of south central Idaho. With an enrollment of 239 in a community of over 3,300, the school pushes its students to work for the best possible future they can attain through advanced learning programs, including one focusing on technology.

Challenge:
Technology moves at the speed of light. What was brand new last year is already surpassed twelve months later. How can a teacher be sure that what is being relayed to the students is the most up-to-date, accurate reflection of the current state of technology?

Then, how can that teacher know that the information is being absorbed? Large classes make it difficult to get in the minds of each student, making it nearly impossible to truly gauge what's being retained and what needs to be reiterated.

Darrell Muck, a business instructor at Gooding High, was faced with this precise scenario. In trying to make sure his 40 students understood the basics of computing, he found that as the software and operating systems progressed, the books he was teaching from were instantly outdated. Replacing them year after year was entirely too expensive.

"The information in the books was stagnant and chronically outdated," Muck said. "In some cases they more harm than good."

But students need a source of reference, something that can be accessed easily for studying and sharing. This is an obvious quandary: what medium is easy to use yet consistently contains the latest advances in technology?

Solution:
Muck discovered e-learning by LearnKey. The IC³ (Internet and Computing Core Certification) course was exactly the kind of current, comprehensive teaching aid he needed. IC³ covers the everyday skills that today's computer needs, including terms, proper computer care, surfing the Web, creating spreadsheets and using word processors. The course is also certified under the national No Child Left Behind law, which requires schools to create digitally literate students.

"The best part about the program is it provides an unparalleled resource to technology learning," he said. "The accessibility and structure of the course made it a perfect compliment to what they were hearing from me. It was also extremely thorough."

After going through the course, Muck wanted the students to obtain their official CertiPort certifications. He knew they had picked up the important aspects of the course, but didn't want them to spend their money on the test only to fail. So he utilized the exam LearnKey provided with the course.

"I made the students take the (LearnKey) Master Exam," Muck said. "Those that passed with a 90% or better twice in a row, I let them take the (CertiPort) exam. All 40 students ended up taking the exams, and all of them passed on the first try."

At least one student was prepared so well by the LearnKey test that he felt that CertiPort's was merely a practice test. It was simply too easy.

Conclusion:
LearnKey's interactive e-learning provided the most thorough, demonstrative teaching aid around. Using the IC³ course to supplement, not replace, his teaching, Muck was able to relay to his students the most current information in computing in an enjoyable, accessible way. All of his students were able to demonstrate their knowledge by easily passing a certification exam, gaining an official title they can take with them the rest of their lives.