

The Eighth Floor

A TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING CENTER FOR EDUCATORS:
A TulsaTech and Tulsa Community College Partnership

NEWSLETTER

eNews!

- We have a new format for our eNewsletter. We wanted to keep it simple and easy to skim. What do you think?
- The Eighth Floor has a new web address. <http://eighthfloor.tulsatech.org/>
No worries, though, the old one still works for now.
- We also have a new logo! You may have noticed it on the top of the page and on our website.
- Not only does our eNewsletter have a new look, so does our printed semester schedule. We absolutely love this new format. A PDF version is available on our website. http://eighthfloor.tulsatech.edu/enewsletters/Spring09_8thFloor.pdf
- We are creating a **Teacher Resource Room** here on the **Eighth Floor**. What we have in mind is a comfortable and quiet place to create lesson plans, interact with peers, and do research. We are interested in knowing what resources or software you might be interested in. Any creative ideas or suggestions can be directed to Dr. Cole at lisa.cole@tulsatech.org.
- National Board Certification classes are coming to the Eighth Floor. Look for more information in our summer schedule. You can learn more about becoming a Nationally Board Certified educator at: <http://www.nbpts.org>.
- We have several **new classes** coming to you throughout the semester:
 - * What's So Delicious About Social Bookmarking?
 - * RSS – But in a Google Way
 - * Photoshop Tips & Tricks – 6
 - * PowerPoint 2007 for the Classroom (*updated from 2003*)
 - * Outlook 2007: Levels 1 & 2

I Pledge . . .

We have a new president! Surely the change in energy has not escaped your notice. As a nation and as educators, we have been called to meet a challenge. In his inaugural speech, President Obama spoke often of what WE must do.

“Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America — they will be met. On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.” ([Times Online](#))

So, the question is, how do we start? Inspired by a video on YouTube, [Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher's I Pledge Video](#), we thought we'd start by making just one pledge. So, here's what we pledge . . .

- **“I pledge** to do everything in my power to make sure the teachers we support have the knowledge, tools and skills to make technology part of their daily teaching.” (Scott Ertl)
- **“I pledge** to support the issues and causes dear to me. **I pledge** to continue to be open for change and embrace what is good. **I pledge** to be a better person.” (Linda Jones)

- **“I pledge** to assist fellow educators in discovering new ways to create educational experiences for our students that are engaging, meaningful, and life changing.” (Dana Lindon)
- **“I pledge** to find people who would like to learn how to Square Dance!” (Pam Burgess)
- **“I pledge** to foster learning as a process and not an accumulation of information. **I pledge** to contribute more than I take from my communities” (Lee Anne Morris)
- **“I pledge** to work with schools in the development of new programs and services which help educators learn more about technology!” (Lisa Cole)

Classes in January & February

Our spring semester schedule stretches from late January to early May. Here is a taste of what’s coming up in the next few weeks. Be sure to take a look at the entire schedule on the website for a complete list of classes this semester.

[More . . .](#)

Online Learning Series

Are you interested in learning how to teach in an online environment? Both the curious *and* the desperate are welcome! This program helps educators make the transition from face-to-face classroom instruction to the world of online, distance education. The format for the course is blended, both online and F2F. New, this semester, we will be using Moodle instead of Blackboard as our online classroom. In the process of recreating the series in Moodle, we gave it a much needed facelift. It has been a wonderful opportunity to rediscover the best parts of teaching online. Whether you will use Blackboard, Desire to Learn, Moodle, Sakai, or any other learning management system, the skills you learn and perspectives you gain apply. **Hurry! We begin February 4th.**

[More . . .](#) (page 4)

Educational Technology: Level 1

This course is designed for beginners or the “un”-Geek. You will get a taste of several tools and useful skills, such as Powerpoint, email, Word, Windows, Adobe Reader, file management, and using the internet. **Class begins Feb 5th.**

[More . . .](#) (page 5)

Grant Writing Workshop: 1

For individuals with little or no proposal writing Experience. **Class begins Jan 30th.**

[More . . .](#) (page 5)

Grant Writing Workshop: 2

This class takes grant writing to the next level. **Class meets Feb 20th.**

[More . . .](#) (page 5)

Introduction to Second Life

Second Life is a 3-D virtual world entirely created by its residents. Learn how to create your own avatar and explore how you can be using this tool. **Class meets Feb 26th.**

[More . . .](#) (page 5)

Second Life Intermediate

A continuation of the first class, explore techniques for creating content. **Class meets March 12th.**

[More . . .](#) (page 5)

Web 2.0 (The Read/Write Web)

The Eighth Floor offers a variety of Web 2.0 courses designed to help introduce educators to the many free and increasingly popular tools available on the internet. Focus is on classroom integration and building learning networks.

- Google Earth – January 29th
- Podcasting – February 13th
- What About Blogs – February 17th

- Wiki When You Wanna – February 17th
- Digital Picture Projects – February 24th
- Working with Digital Images – February 25th

[More . . .](#) (pages 6-9)

Web Design

These courses are designed with educators in mind. We offer classes with both free and not so free tools.

- Dreamweaver – February 17th

[More . . .](#) (page 8)

Photoshop & Graphics

Whether you want just a taste or a day-long class, we have it covered. All classes are based on the CS3 version.

- Photoshop: An Intro – February 3rd
- A Taste of Photoshop – February 5th
- Photoshop: Tips & Tricks #1 – February 19th
- Acrobat 8.0: Level 1 – February 11th
- Acrobat 8.0: Forms – February 25th

[More . . .](#) (pages 9 & 10)

Productivity in the Classroom

What does that mean? Some software is designed with simple goals, to help you be more productive, whether you are in the classroom or not.

- Access 2007: Level 1 – class begins February 4th
- Access 2007: New Features – February 26th
- Excel 2007: Level 1 – February 12th
- Excel 2007: New Features – February 27th
- Outlook 2007: Level 1 – February 19th
- Word 2007: New Features – February 24th

[More . . .](#) (pages 10-11)

PowerPoint

Powerpoint is an amazingly easy and versatile tool. We have classes for the absolute beginner to the advanced user looking for creative application.

- PPT 2003: An Introduction – January 26th
- PPT 2003: Animations – February 2nd
- PPT 2003: Hyperlinks – February 9th
- PPT 2003: More Animations & Hyperlinks – February 23rd
- PPT 2007: New Features – February 25th

[More . . .](#) (page 11)

SmartBoards & Clickers

- CPS 5.0: Level 1 – January 29th
- SmartBoards – SmartLearning: 1 – February 21st
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[More . . .](#) (page 13)

Enrolling in Eighth Floor Classes

If you wish to enroll in a class, and we hope you do, you will need to contact your advisory committee representative. If you don't know who yours is, check this list: <http://www.eighthfloor.org/membership.html#Current>

What is an advisory committee representative? *Great question!* The Eighth Floor is a consortium owned and operated by Tulsa Community College and Tulsa Technology Center. Area schools interested in our mission choose to belong to the consortium. Each member school has an advisory board representative who sits on a committee that . . . well . . . advises us.

Want to know even more?

Our Mission: <http://www.eighthfloor.org/about.html>

Membership: <http://www.eighthfloor.org/membership.html>

Staff: <http://www.eighthfloor.org/membership.html>

If you have questions about membership, please feel free to contact Dr. Lisa Cole at lisa.cole@tulsatech.org.

If you have questions about enrollment procedures, check with your advisory member or contact Phyllis Lawson here on the Eighth Floor at phyllis.lawson@tulsatech.org

Sites We Like

One, small part of our job is to evaluate and play with resources for educators, and that includes online resources. We find all sorts of sites – free and not so free – all the time. In an effort to share what we think is cool, here's this month's TOP 10 list just for you!

1. BackpackIt <http://www.backpackit.com/tour>
2. Plurk <http://www.plurk.com>
3. Vocab.com <http://vocab.com/>
4. Vocabulary.com <http://www.vocabulary.com/>
5. Literacy Leader <http://www.literacyleader.com/>
6. Copywrite.com FAQs <http://www.copyright.com/ccq/viewPage.do?pageCode=cr11-n>
7. Open Courseware Consortium <http://www.ocwconsortium.org/index.php>
8. University of Oklahoma K-20 Center <http://k20network.ou.edu/>
9. The Global Education Collaborative <http://gloaleducation.ning.com/>
10. Textbook Revolution http://textbookrevolution.org/index.php/Main_Page

One way to keep up with what WE are keeping up with is by reading the **Eighth Floor Blog**. If you can't remember to visit the blog regularly, you might want to subscribe! It is easy – just subscribe to our RSS feed or subscribe with your email. You'll find easy links on the left side of the page. <http://8thfl.blogspot.com/>

Free Advertising!!

Would you like to share a special program, conference, class, contest, etc. in our eNewsletter? We'd be happy to pass along links or quick information to our consortium members. We email this newsletter to consortium members who have attended classes on the Eighth Floor. (*Before you ask . . . we are happy to share our space, but we can't share our email list.*)

If you have requests, please send them to Lee Anne at leeanne.morris@tulsatech.org



Spring Conference 2009 - Online, All the Time

.... It's the "UN"conference!

The Oklahoma Distance Learning Association is shaking it up this spring with a new one-day conference format – The “UN”Conference! In an effort to make going to a conference easier, cheaper, and way more interesting, they are putting together a format that may just change the way you think about technology altogether. Details will be released soon.

[More . . .](#)

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