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News Release

Online Teachers Conference Offers Opportunities for Learning and Sharing

The Colorado Department of Education will hold a two-day best practices workshop next week for online teachers. Online elementary teachers are invited to day one of the workshop on Monday, August 4, 2008. Online secondary teachers will attend day two of the workshop on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. The workshops will be hosted by Academy School District 20 in Colorado Springs.

The OL Teach! 2008 Conference provides the opportunity for online teachers in Colorado to learn about best practices for teaching online by combining core concept learning with personalized learning.

"This workshop will provide an important opportunity for the development of new teaching strategies and the sharing of those that have been proven over time," said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. "I know our online teachers from around the state will enjoy these two days of teamwork and networking."

Colorado's 2008 Online Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year will be announced by Commissioner Jones and Deputy Commissioner Ken Turner via Web camera on Tuesday, August 5 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The online teachers selected for these awards demonstrated outstanding commitment and excellence in 21st century online teaching in Colorado.

The program for the conference also features appearances from several notable guests including keynote speaker Kirsten Peterson.

Peterson manages curriculum development and updates for *EdTech Leaders® Online* professional development and virtual school training programs. Peterson will present a session on how virtual instructors are changing teaching.

The conference will feature workshops on grade level and discipline networking, web tools for powerful teaching and learning, online assessment for online learners and more.

For more information about the OL Teach! 2008 Conference, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm> and select August 2008.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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