

# Educators get schooled on technology

At the Educational Technology Training Center, they learn how to integrate advances into teaching.

By Louise Harbach

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

MOUNT LAUREL — Judy Angelo loves her job as Burlington City High School's librarian, but being a librarian these days, she will tell you, is a daunting task.

And for that she blames technology.

"We're probably in the middle of one of the biggest information explosions ever, and it's hard to keep up," Angelo explained. "These days, the printed page is likely to be on a computer."

To keep abreast of technological changes and to learn how to integrate technology into classroom teaching, Angelo and other educators in Burlington County are enrolling in courses at the Educational Technology Training Center (ETTC) at Burlington County College's Mount Laurel campus.

"Such a center can help a teacher implement technology into any discipline," said Angelo, who had come to ETTC on Wednesday to take a one-day course on how high school librarians can help students navigate the Internet.

It was her second ETTC course.

"The first course I took was 'Attention: Software Shoppers,'" said Angelo. "I wanted an unbiased opin-

ion about various software programs, and I got to look through all the software first before deciding which ones our district should purchase."

The center is housed in the community college's technology center and is operated in conjunction with the New Jersey Institute of Technology. It is one of 21 similar facilities established in each county in the state.

The center, which opened in June, is part of President Clinton's Goals 2000 program to integrate technology into schools nationwide, said Alysa Cummings, the center's director.

"Our goal is to provide teachers with technical assistance so no matter what their academic discipline is, they can use technology and be comfortable using it," said Cummings.

To open, the center's steering committee received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The committee is made up of Burlington County Institute of Technology, Burlington County College, Lenape Regional High School District, Burlington City School District and Burlington County Educational Media and Technology Center.

ETTC will receive decreasing amounts the second and third year of the three-year grant, said Cummings.

"The idea is for the center to be self-sustaining by the time the three-year grant expires," said Cummings. "I'd say we're well on our way in achieving that goal because of the popularity of the center."

In most cases, the school districts pay for the courses, which cost about \$25 each.

Since September, more than 300 teachers have enrolled in courses, most of which take only a half-day or a day.

Forty courses offered during January, February, and March include organizing a successful Web club; demonstrations of database management software for science and math; college and career planning resources on the Internet; Internet sites for the visual and performing arts, social studies, science and other subjects; and multidisciplinary Internet projects.

"We try to tailor the courses to teacher needs," said Cummings of the courses, which are limited to 20 participants. "It's very hands-on learning."

## For More Information

■ Call the Educational Technology Training Center at 222-9311, Ext. 3882.