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Capitol Tech Highlights Tech Integration at Chatham County School

(March 5, 2010) Chatham County's West Chatham Elementary School, along with thirteen other schools in Georgia, will be the focus of the sixth annual Capitol Tech to be held at the Georgia Capitol on March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will showcase for Georgia legislators the positive impact that technology funding is having on learning in public schools across the state.

Armstrong Atlantic State University's (AASU) Educational Technology Center (ETC), with funding from a federal Title IID grant, has been working with Jason Smith, a West Chatham Elementary fifth grade teacher, and media specialist Jean Shearer to help the students learn how to create their own educational podcasts. Capitol Tech will spotlight students using the fundamental technology tools necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

The Armstrong Atlantic ETC, directed by Wendy Marshall, is one of 13 such centers, which are strategically located across the state to provide instructional and technical training to all Georgia school systems. These centers are partnerships between host educational agencies and the Georgia Department of Education.

During the event, students will show legislators the podcast projects they created. The podcasts focus on helping other students understand content areas such as Charles Dickens, the Civil War, and cell anatomy. The podcasts are multimedia lessons resulting from student and teacher collaboration that teach how to infuse technology into the teaching and learning process.

Educational Technology Centers help schools across the state improve and promote research-based methods of instruction with teachers. Their emphasis includes the integration of multiple technologies to enrich the curriculum, effective uses of technology to increase school productivity, and distance learning to provide opportunities that would otherwise be inaccessible. The mission of ETCs is to empower students to meet the challenges of tomorrow in order to be competitive in the 21st century.

For further information contact Wendy Marshall at 912.344.2633.