



National Center for Technology Innovation
Advancing Technology Innovations for All Students

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International Experts Discuss Crucial Role of Technology in Transforming Education

National Center for Technology Innovation brings together technology leaders from industry, academia, foundations, business, and the media

Washington, DC—The 2008 Technology Innovators Conference begins a two-day national dialogue examining the crucial role of accessible technology in transforming education for *all* students, with a special focus on individuals with disabilities.

Thriving in a Global Marketplace, hosted by the National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI), spotlights the need for universally accessible formats to bridge the digital divide.

Conference keynote speakers include Jim Stovall, Co-founder and President of the Narrative Television Network, and Thomas E. Perez, Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, a member of President-elect Barack Obama's transition team.

Conference presenters, who are playing an active role in advancing the learning and assistive technology dialogue, consist of:

- **Industry leaders**, including Google, Yahoo!, Microsoft, Cisco Systems, and Blackboard;
- **Foundations**, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Pew Internet and American Life Project;
- **Academia**, including the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Michigan State University;
- **Business organizations**, including the Business Roundtable; and
- **Educational technology organizations**, including the State Educational Technology Directors Association and the International Society of Technology in Education.

"Innovative technologies have the ability to truly transform education, allowing greater access and educational opportunities for *all* students," commented Tracy Gray, Ph.D., Director of the National Center for Technology Innovation at the American Institutes for Research. "For U.S. students to maintain competitiveness in our global economy, it is critical that we fully embrace and use the wide array of online platforms currently being used internationally."



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Conference themes include exploring the latest international breakthroughs, innovations, and trends in making technologies accessible for all students; what's next for the learning and assistive technology field; the potential of wireless technologies; the expanding \$2 billion gaming industry; the research base for online learning; and the role of technology in developing 21st century skills to strengthen U.S. students' competitiveness in the global economy.

Ongoing blog coverage will be offered throughout the conference and meeting materials (PowerPoint presentations, videos, and resources) will be made available following the conference via the National Center for Technology Innovation Web site, www.NationalTechCenter.org.

About the National Center for Technology Innovation

The National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI), established in 2001, advances learning opportunities for *all* students, with a special focus on students with disabilities, by fostering technology innovation. NCTI offers technical assistance to facilitate growth and sustainability of learning and assistive technologies. The Center is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education and is located at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, DC.

More about the 2008 Technology Innovators Conference

Thriving in a Global Marketplace begins at 8:30 am on Thursday, November 20 and will conclude at noon on Friday, November 21. The meeting is taking place at The Madison Hotel in Washington, DC. Registration is waived for members of the media. View the [full agenda](#).

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