



Gearing up for NECC

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the May issue of EDCompass™ newsletter!

We're a just a month away from the 29th annual [National Educational Computing Conference](#) (NECC), North America's largest education technology show. This year, it takes place June 29-July 2 in San Antonio, Texas. SMART will be there again in full force, and this issue of the newsletter gives you the first glimpse of what to expect in our booth. You can also read about a high school that seamlessly implemented SMART products into every math classroom and learn about our newest SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard that offers 20 percent more surface area.

As always, if you have any comments about the newsletter or any of the information featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to education@smarttech.com.

NANCY'S NOTES

Follow the leader

This simple childhood game was always a fun one for me. It took concentration and observation. As in the game, following the leader in the adult world can be worthwhile.

Just recently, the category share statistics* were released for interactive whiteboards. Here's how the report stacked up for SMART:

- Globally, our share is up 10 points to 56.8 percent. This means that of all the world shipments, almost six in ten are from SMART
- In the United States, our share is up over 3 points to 59.4 percent



This all sounds good for us, but what does this mean for you? Good things, actually.

Companies that lead their categories as we do are generally the companies that can afford to keep the innovation cycle alive and well. They can build resources and undertake a variety of no-charge activities that enhance the adoption and use of their products. For you, this means we'll be around to support and look after you when you need us.

The results of our investments are evident in our products:

- We have released version 10 of Notebook™ software, packed with lots of new features
- We have built support for our new document camera into Notebook software
- Senteo™ interactive response system – well, you'll hear about that soon enough

Beyond this, there are many new products and product enhancements coming.

As always, thanks for your support. We are committed to a great user experience for you and hope we can help you make a difference in your students' lives

*Decision Tree Consulting Ltd, Interactive Displays / ICT Products Market: Quarterly Insight State of the Market Report, Quarter 4 2007, Decision Tree Consulting Ltd, 31 January 2008. 1-8. Reprinted with permission.

[Nancy Knowlton](#) is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

CLASSROOM CONTENT

Notebook software lesson activities



Find **Hundreds of** high-quality **K–12 lesson activities** on the education solutions website. Each lesson is correlated to local curriculum standards and created by classroom teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Here are a few of our newest lesson activities to try with your students. This month, we've included a Father's Day lesson activity to use in your language arts class.

Tracing Shapes

K–3 math students can learn how to trace and identify different geometric shapes.

Father's Day Poems

Students in grades 4–6 language arts classes can learn how to compose their own Father's Day poems.

What Country Am I In?

Social studies students in grades 7–9 can learn about different countries and where they are on the world map through clues given about that particular country.

NEWS

Visit us at NECC



If you're attending NECC this year, you can be among the first to learn about our new products that will be available later this year. While you're there, stop by our booth, 8145, to chat with SMART's product experts and teachers who use SMART products every day. They'll share some best practices, and you'll be able to watch them demonstrate lessons on a SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard. We're also giving away many products throughout the show, so you'll want to stay close to our booth.

The conference will be held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center on the San Antonio River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you face to face to answer your questions and hear how you're using SMART products in your classroom.

Look for more details and a printable schedule of events taking place at our booth in the June issue of the newsletter.

SMART training event

Do you want to learn about the **SMART Board interactive whiteboard**, **Notebook software**, and interactive lesson and instructional design? We're offering a full-day level I training event at NECC for new users of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard on Monday, June 30. Registration is US\$499 and includes a learner workbook, a free **AirLiner™ wireless slate** and a complimentary CD with sample SMART-created lesson activities. You'll also receive a demonstration on how you can use the **Senteo™ interactive response system** to instantly and accurately gauge student understanding.

We only have room for 100 people, so register today by e-mailing training@smarttech.com.

We offer affordable training events throughout North America for a range of SMART product users, from novice to advanced. Visit SMART's [website](#) for a list of upcoming training sessions in your area.

CONTESTS

Speak up for a chance to win

Tell us how you are currently using or would like to use a document camera or audio system in your classroom, and you could win a SMART Document Camera and SMART Audio. Both these products work with Notebook software, so you can experience seamlessly integrated lessons.

To enter this contest, share your best practices and anecdotes on the SMART Exchange discussion board. We're giving away three prize packages every month from May to October 30, 2008. You can enter once a month, but each of your posts must include original content.

Visit the [SMART Exchange](#) for contest details.

Share, vote and win – back to school

You still have three weeks left to upload your best back-to-school lesson activities to the SMART Exchange. You'll instantly be entered to win a SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system and a one-year subscription to the SMART Learning Marketplace. This prize package has an approximate value of US\$3,500.

The deadline for submissions is June 3, 2008. If you are not already a member of the SMART Exchange, [sign up today](#) and start posting your lessons.

Visit the [SMART Exchange](#) for full contest details.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The places you will go

“What will we discover today?” Patricia Deibert asks this every morning when she arrives at her classroom and powers up her SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard. A biology and chemistry teacher at Sheboygan Falls High School in Wisconsin's Sheboygan Falls, Deibert says her students' understanding of some very difficult scientific concepts is enhanced through hands-on learning projects facilitated by SMART products.

[Read the full article.](#)



CLASSROOM CONTENT

SMART-accredited software



The [SMART Software Accreditation Program](#) now has 200 multimedia content and software titles from 70 companies, including Texas Instruments, Tom Snyder Productions: A Scholastic Company, McGraw-Hill and Houghton Mifflin Learning Technology.

The program recognizes content and software based on their level of compatibility with SMART Board interactive whiteboards and Symposium™ interactive pen displays.

Consider these new SMART-accredited software and content titles for your next lessons:

[Classroom Suite 4](#) is a unique intervention tool that combines direct instruction with a flexible environment to help students in grades pre K–5 achieve mastery in reading, writing and math.

[Great Source Reading Advantage® Ezines CD-ROM](#) helps struggling readers improve their comprehension, vocabulary and overall reading fluency with highly engaging, interactive articles designed for students in grades 6–12 who read below their grade level.

Power your lessons with the Toolkit



Have you downloaded the full version of the Lesson Activity Toolkit that was launched last month? We put together useful [tips and tricks](#) to help you build lessons that will energize your class.

Watch nine Adobe® Flash® video tutorials that will teach you how to do the following:

- Customize your Tile activities with sounds and images
- Incorporate graphics and games into your lessons
- Jazz up your lessons using the Checker tool, Pull tabs and other images.

Download the [Toolkit](#) now to start creating your own lessons, and then [share](#) your ideas with other teachers on the SMART Exchange.

Naperville high school brings cutting-edge teaching tools to math students

After Sharon Fischer walked into her math classroom six years ago and saw a SMART Board interactive whiteboard at the front of the room, teaching geometry to her students in grades 10–12 was never the same again.

In 2002, Scott Miller, instructional coordinator for the math department at [Naperville Central High School](#) in Naperville, Illinois, began a pilot project in Fischer's class and mounted a SMART Board interactive whiteboard at the front of the room.

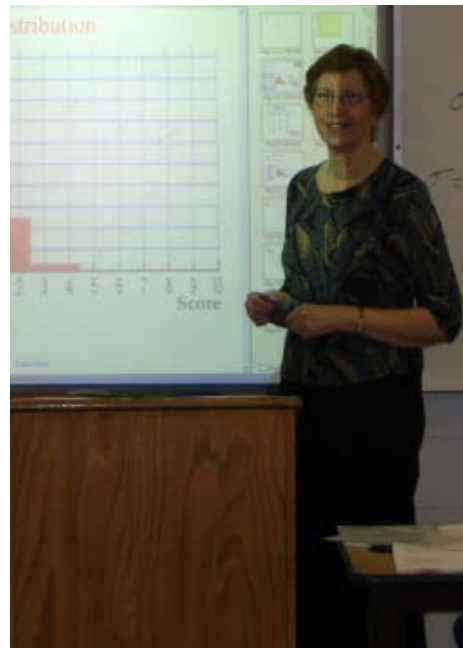
Fischer had briefly seen a demonstration on a SMART Board interactive whiteboard, but she had never used one herself and was amazed at how easy it was to operate. "I was blown away with how quickly I got comfortable using the SMART Board, and I just jumped right in on that first day of school," says Fischer. "My students were wowed when they saw what I was teaching them, and the other teachers were in awe with what I could do. They didn't realize ... it's just easy to learn. I quickly started building up my Gallery with geometric shapes that I could use at any time in my lessons. That has been a huge time-saver for me."

Soon after that, all 25 teachers in the math department wanted an interactive whiteboard in their classrooms. Now, SMART Board interactive whiteboards can be found in 75 classrooms at Naperville Central, with orders for more in the 2008–2009 school year.

Miller was impressed with the way students began interacting with lessons. This encouraged him to introduce the Senteo interactive response system into his math department. Students began to improve and they wanted to learn more. "Students are excited about taking tests using Senteo, and that is very refreshing to hear from them," says Miller, who plans to purchase more next year.

Naperville Central became the 100th SMART Showcase School in February. Even prior to becoming a Showcase School, teachers at Naperville were giving presentations on SMART products to teachers in schools at the local and national level, and the requests haven't stopped. "Since becoming a Showcase School, we've received more calls from schools wanting to visit us," says Miller. "Just this past week, I've had two schools contact me to see the SMART Board in action, and I'm really excited about that."

If you would like to visit Naperville Central High School to talk with educators about their success and see firsthand how they're putting SMART products to work, visit the [SMART Showcase School](#) section on our website.



SMART Board 685 interactive whiteboard



“Bigger is better” is the expression we’re hearing from educators around the world. Having more work space when you use your interactive whiteboard to teach a lesson not only helps you become more efficient, but it is likely to become a standard in classrooms around the world.

In response to your needs and those of computer and projector manufacturers, we’re giving you optimal viewing and teaching space with the new wide-format SMART Board 685 interactive whiteboard. The 685 offers you and your students 20 percent more working space than a SMART Board 680 interactive whiteboard. Our newest interactive whiteboard has a 16:10 aspect ratio that measures 87 inches (221 cm) on the diagonal. This increases your working space on an interactive whiteboard to a size similar to a regular whiteboard or chalkboard, and it supports the growing number of wide-screen projectors that are entering the education market segment.

A wider perspective from an elementary teacher

“I’m excited to start using the SMART Board 685 with my third-grade students,” says Kevin Egan from B.W. Tinker School in Waterbury, Connecticut. “The wider aspect board will allow me to address the differentiated needs of my students, and for any teacher, that is invaluable. The bigger the interactive whiteboard, the more material you can work with ... I can use half the SMART Board for instruction targeted to students who learn at one pace, while simultaneously using the other half to rephrase the same lesson content for students who might require a bit more time.

Teachers are used to working with a long whiteboard or chalkboard, and they split it up into thirds or halves so that they can present multiple lessons or equations simultaneously, without having to worry about erasing anything. I often use the Dual Page Display on my SMART Board 680 interactive whiteboard because that allows me to get material on two pages in the same view. With the new 685 it will be that much easier to view the Dual Page Display.

I think it’s great that as electronics get bigger and better, the SMART Board is following right along with that trend.”

SMART Board interactive whiteboard facts



- In 1991, SMART created the world’s first and most popular interactive whiteboard
- SMART has consistently led the interactive whiteboard category. It has a **53 percent share** in the education segment in the United States and a 57 percent share in the United Kingdom
- The award-winning family of SMART Board interactive whiteboards is the most widely installed in the world because of its unsurpassed product quality, durability, versatility and ease of use
- The SMART Board interactive whiteboard is used to teach over 18 million students in more than 600,000 classrooms in more than 100 countries around the world
- SMART Board interactive whiteboards can be operated with a finger, pen tool or any object, addressing the widely divergent needs of millions of users
- The SMART Board 600 series has five sizes – 640, 660, 680, 685 and 690
- SMART is the only company offering two wide-format interactive whiteboards
- The 685 offers 20 percent more and the 690 offers 30 percent more working area than the 680

What is an aspect ratio?



An **aspect ratio** is a set of numbers that describe the relative width and height of a display area, whether it's a movie screen, a photograph, a computer monitor or an interactive whiteboard.

Wide-screen benefits

- More viewing area allows for more items to be displayed on your SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- Work more easily with two open vertical pages in Notebook software. You can teach a lesson while keeping text, graphics, Web content or other applications in view
- Provides a truer playback experience when viewing DVDs and other multimedia content
- The width grows but the height stays the same so you and your students can work within every area of the interactive whiteboard

Up next

Watch for the next issue of EDCompass newsletter, SMART at NECC, coming out mid-June. In this issue, you can get a printable schedule of the events SMART has planned and be the first to find out about our new student software that we're announcing at NECC.

Narrowing in on wide-screen technology



Technology manufacturers recently started moving toward 16:9 and 16:10 aspect ratios for televisions, laptops, printers and projectors that will gradually replace the standard 4:3 aspect ratio, which is the shape that you may be more familiar with. In fact, 4:3 aspect technologies are no longer being produced by many technology manufacturers because wide-screen technology is taking over.

While the 4:3 aspect ratio is an acceptable shape for showing and interacting with your lessons, students will find the wrap-around feeling of a 16:9 or 16:10 proportioned display more immersive and impressive. For some of you, a wider screen may mean more space to display Notebook pages and conduct Internet research. For others of you, it may mean more area to view multimedia applications and more power to captivate students. Quite simply, a wider display makes your interactive whiteboard more functional and easier to use.

No one will disagree that the 4:3 interactive whiteboard that you've probably been using displays exceptional graphics, but with the increasing use of multimedia and more graphics-intensive applications, you may find a wider display more desirable.

For SMART Board interactive whiteboard users, that wide-screen experience is now available in both the 685 and the 690 models. In 2006, we released our first wide-format board, the SMART Board **690** interactive whiteboard, which offers 30 percent more working space over the 680, our largest 4:3 interactive whiteboard.

You can find more information on the SMART Board 600 series on our [website](#). Or if you're attending NECC next month, visit our booth to see firsthand how the wide-format interactive whiteboard can impact your lessons.