

**Volume 7, No. 3**

**September 10, 2008 - Building a Presence for Science: Ohio eBlast**

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**1. From the ORC: Inquiry for our Youngest Learners**

<http://rec.ohiorc.org/projects/default.aspx>

Take a look at this great new feature at ORC's Resources for Early Childhood site! The "Let's Learn" feature provides detailed information about the project approach for early childhood classrooms. There are currently three examples of projects created and carried out in some of Ohio's early childhood classrooms. These multidisciplinary projects, which are aligned with Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards, demonstrate how content from various subjects can be woven together into a cohesive investigation. Look for the science in these investigations and pay attention to how the children represent what they have learned. You might also want to look for some evidence of early conceptions of scientific ideas held by the preschool children who had the opportunity to participate in the projects. There's lots to learn here that could be applied in different ways at higher grade levels. Be sure to share this with the primary school teachers in your building!

**2. K-12: Science Update from the Ohio Department of Education**

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>

**Performance Based Assessment**

Performance-based assessment is "a measure of assessment based on authentic tasks such as activities, exercises, or problems that require students to show what they can do"

-Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

### Possible Elements of Ohio's Next Generation of Assessments

- Curriculum-driven and compatible with revisions to academic content standards
- Involve teachers more as partners
- Incorporate 21st Century Skills
- Produce multiple measures of student achievement

ODE will be conducting a Performance Assessment Pilot Study to examine research on national, international, and locally developed performance assessment models. The research and exemplars will be used to develop an "Ohio Model" for Performance Based Assessment. The pilot will work with grades 11 and 12, in the areas of English-Language Arts, Science, and Math. An informational meeting will be held on September 17, 2008 at the Capitol Theatre, Riffe Center, in Columbus.

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond of Stanford University will provide the conference's keynote address, speaking on performance-based assessments in a 21st Century learning climate. ODE and the Educational Service Center of Franklin encourage attendance of educators and others interested in learning about how they can help create supplements to traditional paper-pencil tests as part of the next generation of Ohio's assessment system.

The suggested audience for the conference includes superintendents, school board members, high school principals, curriculum directors, teacher association leadership, and high school classroom teachers of English, mathematics or science. If interested, registration is available on STARS. For more information contact Chris Downey at ODE 614-387-2201.

### **ODE Website Changes**

In the next few months there will be some changes on the ODE website. The goal is to make the site more user-friendly for the ODE customers. We are hoping to make the site easier to use and easier to find the information that you need.

### **Green Ohio**

There are a number of initiatives throughout Ohio that promote environmental literacy and helping Ohio students make informed decisions about energy and building in Ohio. ODE technology staff has been visiting a number of educational programs and resources that combine science and technology effectively in the area of energy and building. Here are a few resources to assist teachers in developing lesson plans, planning field trips or arranging for classroom speakers:

<http://www.greenenergyohio.org/page.cfm?pageID=3>

<http://www.morpc.org/energy/educators/resources.asp>

<http://www.ohio4-hcenter.org/green.html>

### **Ohio Science Matrix**

The Ohio Science Matrix is now complete for Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-10. It can be found on the ODE Web site as a part of the Instructional Management System under the last apple. Here is the link:

<http://ims.ode.state.oh.us/ode/ims/Default.asp?bhcp=1>

### **INFOhio Toolkit 2008-2009 provides resources for educators**

Looking for quick and easy ways to utilize the thousands of electronic resources available from INFOhio? Click here for the 2008-2009 INFOhio Toolkit. This toolkit provides educators with the supplies and resources needed to get the school year off to a great start and to ensure continued success with INFOhio resources throughout the year.

With the start of the new school year, INFOhio home access requires a username and password. The new INFOhio home access username and password are available from your school library media specialist, your regional ITC provider and INFOhio.

### **Statewide video contest utilizes academic content standards**

<http://www.etech.ohio.gov/conference/awards/svc/>

Ohio's eight public television stations, eTech Ohio, and the Ohio Department of Education are partnering to co-facilitate a video contest for students. The sixth annual eTech Ohio Student Video Contest will recognize outstanding student achievement in the use of video production technologies while meeting Ohio's academic content standards. Click here to download contest information and forms. Student videos must be submitted by Nov. 12, 2008, to your local PBS affiliate. For a list of PBS affiliates and contact information, click the URL above.

### **Applications are available for 2009 Ohio Teacher of the Year**

<http://tinyurl.com/6q8p7p> (This is on the ODE web site, but the actual URL is too long.)

ODE recently e-mailed applications to school districts to nominate the 2009 Ohio Teacher of the Year. School districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools may submit up to three applications for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 teachers. Nominees must be outstanding classroom teachers who are engaged in the direct teaching of students and plan to continue in an active teaching role. The Ohio Teacher of the Year is invited to speak at many association meetings, conferences and workshops. To view the application and details about the selection process, click on the link above. The deadline for applications is Sept. 30.

Submitted by Cathy Holmes, ODE Science Consultant, and BaP Ohio State Partner

### **3. K-12: Plan to attend the 38th Annual Fall Conference of the Cleveland Regional Council of Science Teachers (CRCST), The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Saturday, October 11, 2008**

<http://www.ctsc.org/crcst>

#### Tentative Schedule

7:30 – 8:00am Registration, Continental Breakfast,  
Networking & Browsing Vendor Displays

8:15 - 9:05 am Concurrent Session I

9:20 - 10:15am Keynote Address: Dr. Julian M. Earls  
“SCIENCE TEACHERS AS CATALYSTS”

This presentation will focus upon the critical role of teachers of science in moving the State of Ohio to the top among states developing world-class talent in science. Also, it is designed to

acknowledge the dedication, determination, competence, and contributions of the members of the Cleveland Regional Council of Science Teachers.

10:15 – 10:30am Annual Membership Meeting  
 10:45 - 11:35 am Concurrent Session II  
 11:50 - 12:40pm Concurrent Session III  
 12:40 - ??? Explore Vendors, Network with your colleagues, & Enjoy the Zoo.

Concurrent session topics include life, earth/space, physical, and integrated science for elementary through college classrooms. Give-aways and vendors also back by popular demand. Explore the Zoo, other professional science education organizations displays, and more. Detailed information is available on our web site (see link above).

Questions: Ray Patacca: 440-256-2122 - rpatacca@lakemetroparks.com

#### **4. K-12: Greetings from ODNR**

<http://www.wildohio.com>

Jen Dennison, the Wildlife Education Coordinator at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Department of Wildlife sent this information:

“Welcome back to school and to another great year of exploring your school grounds! I also wanted to remind you that there are some new features for you to utilize on our website. Click on Wild Resources, then on Educator Resources and you’ll see the link to the WILD School Sites page.

Here you’ll find a featured schools list, a listing of all the certified sites in the state, and our newest feature, the WILD School Sites blog! The blog is designed for you to be able to interact with other schools that have outdoor classrooms, aka WILD School Sites, and for you to get input on activities, questions, issues and more. Please feel free to post to existing comments or if you want a question posted, send it to me and I’ll add it on for you.”

614-265-6316 phone

[jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us)

#### **5. K-12: Beyond Penguins and other FREE resources**

<http://expertvoices.nsd.org/polar/2008/09/01/issue-six-is-live/>

Learn polar science concepts and discover ways to use the polar regions as a context for hands-on science and literacy with Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears, the free online magazine for teachers! The magazine is primarily designed for elementary educators, but middle school and high school teachers will be able to use much of the content as well. Monthly thematic issues include stories of polar research, links to the latest news from the poles, lesson plans, professional development articles, bookshelves for teachers and students, and much more!

Check out all of the content at <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/> .  
 September's issue, Rocks and Minerals, explores polar geology.

Do you want to learn more about rocks, minerals, and what they can teach us about Earth's past? Have you ever wondered what types of rocks are found in Antarctica? If so, then the September issue of Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears is for you! In Issue 6: Rocks and Minerals, you can:

- \*Learn geology basics from the Assistant Curator of the United States Polar Rock Repository.
- \*Learn about the reading strategy of determining importance in nonfiction text.
- \*Download and print nonfiction articles and templates to help your students determine importance while learning about geology.
- \*Find lessons and activities to teach geology and related children's literature.
- \*Learn how to borrow an Antarctic rock box for your classroom.

Of course, there's much more to explore in this wonderful issue! We hope you'll take advantage of all that Issue 6: Rocks and Minerals has to offer!

Submitted by Jessica Fries-Gaither, Elementary Resource Specialist, The Ohio State University

### **6. K-12: Beyond Penguins Web Seminars This Fall**

<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

Get a more in-depth view of content and literacy strategies from Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears and interact online with our presenters and other educators across the country!

The National Science Digital Library is starting up its professional development series of free web seminars for educators in partnership with the National Science Teachers Association again on Sept 25th. These 90-minute programs run from 6:30pm-8:00pm Eastern on their specified date. The fall schedule features two seminars related to Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears:

#### **Sept 25th: Celebrating Astronomy: A Star's Story**

Learn about the life cycle of a star, dark matter and other concepts related to 5th-12th grade astronomy

#### **Gr K-5: Oct 29th: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears Series: Physical Science From the Poles**

What's the difference between an ice shelf and an ice sheet, or an iceberg and sea ice? Why do glaciers and icebergs appear blue? How will melting ice in the Polar Regions affect sea level? In this seminar, we'll explore ice's many forms in the Arctic and Antarctica and how this real-world context can be used to teach physical science concepts such as states and changes of matter, density, and buoyancy.

#### **Nov 13th: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears Series: Energy and the Polar Environment**

The Polar Regions provide an interesting real-world context for the study of energy: intense seasonal fluctuations in the amount of solar radiation and heat, and the albedo (reflectivity) of the ice caps. Climate change and the declining sea ice of the Arctic are changing the energy balance of this region.

#### **Dec 9th: Chemistry Comes Alive: III—Water**

**How to register:**

1. Read the list of programs available (follow the URL link provided above)
2. Click on the link of the program for which you would like to sign up
3. Register for each seminar you want to attend at:

<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/SeminarRegistration.aspx>

On the day of the seminar you'll receive login info that you will need to join.

**7. K-12: Three Ohio school districts were filmed for a PBS program on American schools: "Where We Stand" – Monday September 15**

<http://www.thirteen.org/pressroom/release.php?get=3063>

On Monday, September 15th, PBS stations nationally will air WHERE WE STAND: America's Schools in the 21st Century, a thoughtful look at the state of our nation's schools hosted by NewsHour Senior Correspondent Judy Woodruff. For more information about the program and to see a short teaser of the show, please check it out at the URL above.

Check with your local PBS affiliate for the time of broadcast on their system.

A key purpose of the program is to inform Americans about our country's schools. Please alert your colleagues and friends about the program.

WHERE WE STAND: America's Schools in the 21st Century, a new PBS documentary, looks at real schools, administrators, teachers and students, and seeks advice from experts on how to fix problems such as low math and science literacy, unequal resource allocation and decreasing college graduation rates. The program also contrasts public education in the U.S. with education in China and Finland. Hosted by Judy Woodruff, Senior Correspondent for the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, the program examines three diverse Ohio schools, raises tough questions about American education, shows examples of the impact of education policy and funding formulas, and showcases innovative solutions.

**8. K-12: NSTA is currently accepting applications for the 2009 NSTA election.**

<http://www.nsta.org/nominations>

Submission deadline is October 15, 2008. We have an election for the NSTA District X Director this year, as well as President-elect, and NSTA Board of Director positions for Informal Science, Middle Level Science Teaching, Preschool/Elementary Science Teaching, and Professional Development.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact NSTA at [nominations@nsta.org](mailto:nominations@nsta.org). Please forward this information to your colleagues who may be interested.

**9. K-12: Are you concerned about chemical safety in your school?**

<http://www.epa.gov>

The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3) is pleased to present the Environmental Protection Agency's first ever Green Scene webcast on responsible chemical management in K-12 schools!

Just in time for the back-to-school season, the 9 minute SC3 Green Scene examines the critical need for responsible chemical management in K-12 schools from the chemistry lab to the custodial closet. The webcast encourages schools and community partners to protect students and school staff by taking steps to prevent accidents involving outdated, unknown, and unneeded chemicals.

The SC3 Green Scene features Maria Vickers, Deputy Director of the Office of Solid Waste, and Maria Johnson, the Science Chair at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Virginia.

The Green Scene is posted on the EPA home page ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)) for a short period of time. It will then be moved to the Green Scene archives where it can be viewed or downloaded at any time.

We hope you find this Green Scene interesting and useful. Please distribute this information to your networks and others who will find it of value as they build their SC3 programs.

To view the Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3) Green Scene, visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). For more information on SC3, please visit [www.epa.gov/sc3](http://www.epa.gov/sc3)

Submitted by Carole Andreasson, Frey Scientific, and a BaP Ohio State Partner

#### **10. K-12: Free video on the electric system**

<http://www.aepohio.com/go/publicsafety>

Part of the mission at AEP is to improve public safety by increasing awareness about electricity and its potential hazards. Recently, we created a video titled, "Anatomy of an Electric System." The video explains in easy-to-understand terms how electricity works; how it's delivered to homes and businesses, and offers tips on how to stay safe around electricity.

The entire video is about 20 minutes long and is divided into five short chapters, including:

- \* Electricity 101
- \* Anatomy of a Transmission System
- \* Anatomy of a Distribution System
- \* Electricity and Your Home or Business
- \* Electricity's Journey

The video was first provided to our employees and had a very positive response. In fact, many employees ordered copies for their childrens' schools. Since we've had a very good response from schools, we'd like to offer you this teaching aid.

Ordering is easy and free. You can view and order the video online. Depending on your location, each AEP operating company has a page dedicated to this video, which can be accessed via a direct URL. For example, if you live and teach in Ohio, you would type in [www.aepohio.com/go/publicsafety](http://www.aepohio.com/go/publicsafety). Or, you can go to the home page of AEP Ohio and click on the first link under "Service Highlights."

If you prefer not to order online, please call John Ray at 614-716-2040.

Submitted by Barry Schumann, AEP Community and Education Initiatives Coordinator

### **11. K-12: NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**

<http://www.research.noaa.gov/>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Research office works to provide "better forecasts, earlier warnings for natural disasters and a greater understanding of the Earth." Visitors can find about those subjects here and they may wish to start their journey through the site in the "NOAA Research From A to Z" area. It's a great way to learn about their work on everything from air quality to zoo plankton, and each section contains links to other relevant sites. Moving on, visitors will also want to click on over to the "Climate Research" area which provides updates on their work on modeling climate change, the ozone layer, and other germane matters. Of course, visitors would be remiss not to look at the "Weather Research" area as this is where NOAA research truly shines.

### **12. K-12: World Space Week October 4-10**

<http://worldspaceweek.org>

World Space Week is an international celebration of space and in particular the contributions space makes improving the human conditions on Earth. It was officially declared by the United Nations in 1999. During World Space Week, many public events and many educational programs are held simultaneously around the world, on the Internet, even in space! Think what that can do in your classroom....

It is a great tool for getting students excited about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). But in fact space is very multi-disciplinary, you can use it for any subject! More information can be found in our worldwide invitation to teachers at:

[http://www.worldspaceweek.org/Invitation\\_to\\_teachers.pdf](http://www.worldspaceweek.org/Invitation_to_teachers.pdf)

or in Word at:

[http://www.worldspaceweek.org/Invitation\\_to\\_teachers.doc](http://www.worldspaceweek.org/Invitation_to_teachers.doc)

There are even \$500 Educational Awards available. For more information on the awards, please visit: <http://worldspaceweek.org/education.html>

### **13. Gr 7-12: For our colleagues who teach Mathematics in grades 7-12 (please share)**

*Developing Reasoning About Chance* is a one year program, with one meeting in the fall, one meeting in the spring, and an online course scheduled for Summer 2009. The course will

provide teachers deeper understanding of content including student misconceptions in probability and help them in developing lesson plans in probability.

Participants will receive 3 hours of graduate credit at no cost and will receive \$100 of curriculum materials and a \$75 stipend.

A limited number of openings are available and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Teachers can register online for the course at <http://bayes.bgsu.edu/stats>.

This web site also contains a downloadable brochure that contains more information about the program.

This opportunity is made possible through funding from the Ohio Department of Education & Bowling Green State University.

For more information please contact Professor Jim Albert, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Bowling Green State University, [albert@bgsu.edu](mailto:albert@bgsu.edu)

#### **14. Gr 7-12 Biology: Cleveland Region Association of Biologists (CRABS) Fall Conference**

Did you know that Ohio has a regional association associated with NABT? Want to join them for a great and focused conference on September 20, 2008? It is FREE.

When was the last time you got to sit down with your colleagues and talk biology?..... even those in your own building?

The supporting cast from the executive board represents over 500 years of experience that is there for you to tap!!!! Maybe its time to come to CRABS!!!

Be the first area teachers to tour the new Lake MetroParks Environmental Learning Center  
Saturday, September 20

8:30-12:00 pm

Lake MetroParks Environmental Learning Center

7250 Alexander Road, Concord, Ohio 44077

Free !!

Morning Refreshments

Tour of the area's newest, high-tech "School In the Woods"

Welcome the Year Of Darwin—Celebrate his 200th by sharing Darwin / Evolution Activities—

Bring a USB Flash Drive !!

Discuss Environmental Education Activities and Opportunities

Feast on a famous CRABS luncheon buffet

Call a friend, bug a friend This fall --make the effort and connect again!!!

Please RSVP Rich Benz at [richardbenz@mac.com](mailto:richardbenz@mac.com)

### 15. Gr 7-12: The Canary Project

<http://www.canary-project.org/>

More groups and organizations are thinking about creative and thoughtful ways to raise awareness about global warming, and The Canary Project is one such group. Through their use of visual media, events, and artwork the Project aims to visualize global warming in compelling ways, investigate questions about current ecological crises, and also cultivate media attention. Visitors can learn more about their work via their website, and they will want to start by looking over the "Photos" area of the site. Here they can look at photographs of disrupted ecosystems like the barrier reefs off the coast of Belize and evidence of the rising sea level as it manifests itself around Venice and Bangladesh. Afterwards, visitors can move along to their "Projects" area. This area offers a diverse range of documents on their public art projects, their supported works and collaboration, and their outreach efforts, which include school visits and television spots. The site is rounded out by a section where visitors can learn about their past and current exhibitions.

### 16. Gr 7-12: Freshwater Ecoregions of the World

<http://www.feow.org/>

Designed as a collaborative venture between the Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund, the Freshwater Ecoregions of the World (FEOW) site provides a dynamic visual representation of the Earth's freshwater biodiversity. Visitors to the site can find detailed information about 426 different freshwater systems from China to Chile. First-time users can click on the map of the world on the homepage, or they can also click on the "Highlights" area. Visitors with defined interests can also use the "Find an Ecoregion" section to perform a detailed search across the entire database of regions, and they can also browse by country, major habitat type, and major rivers. It's easy to see how this site would be a terrific resource for ecology students in high school or college.

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### Calendar: Upcoming Events/Opportunities/Deadlines

September 15, 2008: PBS TV show featuring 3 Ohio school districts: "Where We Stand"

<http://www.thirteen.org/pressroom/release.php?get=3063>

September 17, 2008: ODE Performance Assessment Pilot Study information meeting  
Register on STARS or contact Chris Downey at ODE 614-387-2201.

September 20, 2008: CRABS one day conference at the new Lake MetroParks Environmental Learning Center; contact Rich Benz at [richardbenz@mac.com](mailto:richardbenz@mac.com)

September 25, 2008: NSTA/NSDL web seminar: Celebrating Astronomy: A Star's Story

<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

September 30, 2008: Deadline for 2009 Ohio Teacher of the Year applications

<http://tinyurl.com/6q8p7p> (on the ODE web site)

October 1, 2008: Deadline to Enter 2008-09 Siemens Competition

<http://www.siemens-foundation.org>

October 4-10, 2008: World Space Week:

<http://worldspaceweek.org>

October 9, 2008: ORC's SIS: A Look at the OGT webcast: Sarah Woodruff

<http://www.ohiorc.org>

October 8-10, 2008: the 16th Annual Teachers, Industry, and Environment Conference

<http://www.ohiochemistry.org>

October 11, 2008: 38<sup>th</sup> Annual CRCST Conference at the Cleveland Zoo

<http://www.ctsc.org/crcst>

October 12-18, 2008: Earth Science Week:

<http://www.earthsciweek.org>

October 15, 2008: Deadline to submit applications for the 2009 NSTA election.

<http://www.nsta.org/nominations>

October 15-18, 2008: NAAEE's 37th Annual Conference: EE on the prairie

<http://www.naaee.org>

October 20-22, 2008: Darwin Lecture Series at the Ohio State University

<http://www.mbi.osu.edu/2008/darwindescription.html>

October 23, 2008: Early Childhood: New Teacher Workshop at COSI

<http://www.cosi.org/educators/professional-development/workshops-pre-school/>

October 24, 2008: IGES 13th Annual Art Contest for Children

<http://www.strategies.org/ArtContest>

October 25, 2008: 2008 Induction Ceremony at National Gallery for America's Young Inventors

<http://www.nmoe.org>

October 29, 2008: NSTA/NSDL web seminar: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears: Physical

Science from the Poles: <http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

October 31, 2008: Earlybird deadline for advance (reduced) registration for NSTA Cincinnati

<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008cin/registration.aspx>

October 31, 2008: Deadline to apply for The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy

<http://www.sendmyteacher.com>

November 12, 2008: ORC's SIS: A Look at the OGT webcast: Karen Irving  
<http://www.ohiorc.org>

November 12, 2008: Deadline for entries in the sixth annual eTech Ohio Student Video Contest  
<http://www.etech.ohio.gov/conference/awards/svc/>

November 13, 2008: NSTA/NSDL web seminar: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears Series: Energy and the Polar Environment: : <http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

November 14, 2008: Advance deadline for partially reduced registration for NSTA Cincinnati  
<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008cin/registration.aspx>

December 4-6, 2008: NSTA Regional Conference, Cincinnati OH  
<http://www.nsta.org/conference>

December 9: NSTA/NSDL web seminar: Chemistry Comes Alive: III—Water  
<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx>

December 10, 2008: ORC's SIS: A Look at the OGT webcast: Esther Hopkins  
<http://www.ohiorc.org>

January 14, 2009: ORC's SIS: A Look at the OGT webcast: Meri Johnson  
<http://www.ohiorc.org>

January 15, 2009: Deadline for International Children's Painting Competition (Environment)  
[http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/inner.asp?ct=competitions&comp=int\\_comp&int\\_comp=18th](http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/inner.asp?ct=competitions&comp=int_comp&int_comp=18th)

January 21, 2009: Deadline to apply for Toyota Tapestry grants  
<http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/guidelines.htm>

February 11, 2009: ORC's SIS: A Look at the OGT webcast: Denis Baker  
<http://www.ohiorc.org>

February 12, 2009: Charles Darwin Bicentennial Day. For more information, please visit:  
<http://darwinday.org/englishL/assistevent/index.html>

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February 25 - 27, 2010: SECO Conference returns to Columbus, Ohio  
<http://www.secoonline.org>

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