

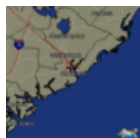
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Colleton High to join New Tech Network

BY BRENDA RINDGE brindge@postandcourier.com Monday, March 12, 2012

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Two South Carolina high schools will soon join the New Tech Network, a nationwide program that works with schools, districts and communities to develop innovative public high schools.

If you go

Introduction of New Tech Network

Where: Scott's Branch High School, 9253 Alex Harvin Highway, Summerton

When: 10 a.m. Tuesday

Phone: 803-478-7818

Where: Colleton County High School, 150 Cougar Nation Drive, Walterboro

When: 2 p.m. Tuesday

Phone: 843-782-0049

At community gatherings at Scott's Branch High School in Summerton and Colleton County High School in Walterboro on Tuesday, former South Carolina governor and U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley will introduce the New Tech Network approach, a \$3 million federal grant project between the schools, KnowledgeWorks and the Riley Institute at Furman.

The New Tech Network, which is made up of 86 public high schools in 16 states, will prepare students for college and careers and make an impact on the area's economic and social development, said Courtenay Laughlin Williams, project director for the Center for Education Policy and Leadership at the Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman University.

"The new Tech Network has a very high success rate in terms of student achievement," Williams said. "It enables the kids to learn in an environment modeled after the 21st century workplace. They will graduate with skills that will enable them to stay in their communities and work."

The program uses an instructional approach centered on project-based learning. It is built on using teachers as coaches and encourages students to work together.

The five-year grant will provide professional development and training for teachers, staffing from the Riley Institute and New Tech Network and more, she said. In addition, every student will have a laptop or some other type of internet access. The schools will implement the programs for ninth-graders in the fall of 2013.

Scott's Branch's program will involve the entire freshman class, while Colleton will involve a portion of the class because the school already has four learning communities: leadership, education and public service; business education and marketing; humanities and arts; and health and human services.

"It fits naturally into what we've got already and gives our students one more option," said Colleton County Principal Cliff Warren. "The good thing about New Tech is it's

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nationwide and has a great network of resources for us to pull from, tons of staff development and resources. It will benefit the entire school."

Reach **Brenda Rindge** at 937-5713 or www.facebook.com/b.rindge.

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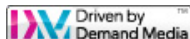
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