this is an outstanding earthquake video!
Debi Kilb, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, instructs a group of teachers on the technical fundamentals of earthquakes, leading them through some rather sophisticated topics. This is one of the best earthquake videos we have seen.” What Bob Gonsett, of Broadcasters Newsletter, is referring to is the recent collaboration between the San Diego Supercomputer Center’s TeacherTECH program and the University of California, San Diego’s campus television station, UCSD-TV, to record and broadcast science-focused workshops as part of their daily Teacher’s PET (Professional Education for Teachers) hour.

“Educators have a critical need for relevant, accessible and usable information from a reputable source, which is why we are so pleased to partner with the TeacherTECH program at the San Diego Supercomputer,” says Richard Wargo, Director of UCSD-TV.

UCSD-TV’s parent channel, University of California Television (UCTV), broadcasts educational and enrichment programming from its nine University of California campuses, national laboratories and affiliated institutions. Broadcasting for over 25 years, it delivers science, health and medicine, public affairs, humanities, and the arts to a general audience, as well as specialized programming for health care professionals and educators. UCTV is available to over 22 million homes nationwide on satellite and cable television, and worldwide via live stream, video archives, podcasting and YouTube.

UCSD-TV is unlike anything else in San Diego, reflecting the region’s rich intellectual and cultural diversity through television programming that is unique in its intent and scope. UCSD-TV reaches approximately one million viewers in San Diego through local cable television providers. “UCTV and UCSD-TV have a public service mission and programs like TeacherTECH are invaluable in helping us reach teachers across the country who might not otherwise have access to this type of content,” adds Wargo.

“Our collaboration with UCSD-TV is very special to the TeacherTECH program,” says Ange Mason, Director of TeacherTECH. “Our goal of making rich science content available to a broad audience is significantly enhanced by this partnership.”

Four science-focused presentations were offered this year, all featuring hands-on and computational content. The presentations offered were Newton’s Law of Gravity: From the Celestial to the Terrestrial, Earthquakes: Teaching Tools Beyond Static Images and Flat Maps, Google Earth: A Great Tool for Many Subject Areas in the Classroom, and Understanding Climate Change: Standards-based Web Resources for the Classroom. To date, these four broadcasts, and the accompanying standards-based lesson plans, have been downloaded almost 200,000 times, indicating that the collaboration is succeeding in its goal to reach a global audience of educators who may not have access to cutting-edge scientific teaching tools in the areas in which they live.

“To be a part of this endeavor has been quite exhilarating for me,” says Philip Blanco, Professor of Physics at Grossmont College in San Diego. “I have received emails from around the world regarding the content that I presented.”

TeacherTECH, now in its tenth year, has grown from a small summer professional development program in 2001 to a program that offers more than 85 workshops to teachers throughout the year. As technology has changed throughout the years, TeacherTECH has followed suit in adapting its content to the needs to the teachers who attend their in-person workshops. In an effort to reach teachers who cannot attend in person, the idea of a video presence seemed like a logical next step for the program.

“The immediate and robust response we have received from viewers who have viewed the TeacherTECH content highlights the impact that our collaboration is having on a large and diverse community of educators,” says Wargo. “The response has been tremendous!”

Relevant links:
TeacherTECH: http://education.sdsc.edu/teachertech
UCSD-TV: http://www.ucsd.tv/
UCTV: http://www.uctv.tv/cable/
The San Diego Supercomputer Center’s TeacherTECH program teams with their university television station and reaches an enthusiastic national audience.

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