

## **Education Technology Labs announces plan for Pre-UNITE Development and Design Review**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Development Review promises to reveal exciting new developments*

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Education Technology Labs, a non-profit consortium of K-12 business managers, IT directors and product developers recently announced plan to sponsor its second annual Development and Design Review prior to the UNITE conference March 12 in San Antonio, TX. This year's Review will be devoted to demonstrating and detailing the development progress and future plans for the Ascent™ product, currently under development by Ed Tech Labs™. For Ed Tech members this will be an exciting presentation as the Ascent™ product demonstration will show Ed Tech™ members progress from the planning and early development stages of a year ago to deliverable product for today. Most informative to members will be a review of the AEE™, Application Execution Environment. Like all Ascent™ products, which by design replace the 5250 "text-based" interface of the CIMS® administrative products with a modern web browser interface. AEE™ is the core Ascent™ module that provides a multi-application access and security for users. For Ed Tech™ members the release of version 1 of AEE™ will provide a signal that their database and IBM iSeries technology will be transcending to the web age, a progression for which many school districts using CIMS® administrative software products have been clamoring.

During the Development and Design Review there will be breakout sessions for financial, employee/HR and student administrative Ascent™ products. Members will have the opportunity to view progress on many released or pending release Ascent™ modules. Ascent™ Student will be presenting Web-based Student Information, an exciting browser-based module that provides simple and intuitive access to many of the facets of the student information system data; demographics, attendance, course requests, discipline, tags, schedule and more, including access to student pictures, something often requested by CIMS® customers. The Employee/HR product team will demonstrate Ascent's Position Inventory module that provides access to employee information, such as, schedule, contract information and demographics searchable by location, position, account or employee. Another pending new release for the Employee/HR division is the Ed Tech™ solution to the Social Security Number/ ID Number problem facing many school districts. In light of the growing identity theft problems, districts are expected to present a unique ID number that replaces the Social Security number ID. This solution, as well as all Ascent™ modules will be available to members in an open source environment, complete with object and source code, an exciting paradigm for public school districts looking for progressive solutions in times of tighter budgets.

Education Technologies Labs is a non-profit product user/software development consortium that promises a web-based solution that enables districts to maintain their existing IBM iSeries technology, existing data history, all within the parameters of their budget. Ed Tech Labs™ has a membership base of over 85 school districts within 22 states. Ed Tech™ along with Timpanogos Technologies, a software support entity working with Ed Tech™ is responsible to research new technologies and develop new software products, such as, Ascent™.

### **About Timpanogos Technologies**

Timpanogos Technologies is a leading provider of supplemental/add-on software, as well as full service and support to school districts using CIMS® products. The company is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, with offices in Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Oklahoma and Michigan. Relationships with regional support vendors are promoted, to provide local first level product support and assistance to schools. For more information, please visit [www.timptech.com](http://www.timptech.com).

### **About Education Technology Labs**

Education Technology Labs is a non-profit research and development corporation, focused on bringing productive, leading edge technology to schools. Ed Tech™ currently participates with

school districts in 22 states, ranging from Alaska to Massachusetts. With extensive education experience, its board of directors includes a former state superintendent of instruction. Focus groups, made up of school personnel, provide direction, needs and priorities. Commercial quality software is developed for participating districts as open source code, with no license fee. Support for standard versions is made available through Timpanogos Technologies. For more information please visit [www.edtechlabs.org](http://www.edtechlabs.org).

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