

## TECHNOLOGY

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**Distance Education:** Education and communication via interactive video is a part of Distance Education. Interactive audio or video conferencing can provide real time face-to-face (or voice-to-voice) interaction. This is an excellent and cost-effective way to provide training and communication needs. The interactive video site at the Verona Research and Extension Center served the public well this year as demonstrated by the myriad programs offered via distance. Veterinary Medicine offered regular workshops to provide certification hours for area veterinarians. Travel dollars and road time were definitely saved many times over as the site was used for committee meetings, planning and communication, but the highest usage was in providing training. The topics addressed issues and information for specific audiences such as Beef Short Course, Entrepreneurship Training, Forestry Short Course, as well as offering information for the general public with Technology and Financial Management Workshops. Often the training included participants in several states. 268 people were trained via Distance Education.

**Youth E-Corps:** 4-Hers chose the name E-Corps to represent Education, Electronic Medium and Entrepreneurship. The word Corps was chosen to represent their desire to be like the Marine Corps by working hard to achieve the goals they set for themselves. These North Mississippi Youth meet on a monthly basis for training and to share their knowledge with others. The Youth Entrepreneurship Corps participants received training in a variety of topics related to technology and entrepreneurship. They published an educational newsletter, which was distributed to local Career Discovery classes, local businesses and Government offices in Washington, DC,

The Youth Entrepreneurship Corps gave presentations at the State CYFAR Conference on February 20, 2001, in Jackson, MS and at the CREST workshop at the Red Hills Mine in Choctaw County on July 17, 2001. A presentation designed by the Youth Entrepreneurship Corps was given at the Volunteer Leader's Conference at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman, Ms on February 24, 2001 and at the Regional Conference in Gulfport, Ms on February 21, 2001.

Sixty-one youth from Northeast Mississippi participated in the Youth Entrepreneurship Corps. Ten youth have established small businesses.

**Technology Education:** The Research and Extension center in Verona hosted a series of hands-on workshops teaching technology basics along with sessions on software such as PhotoShop, Dream weaver, PowerPoint and Illustrator. 138 youth and adults participated in these trainings.

**Teen Talkers:** The ability to communicate well is a vital skill in any career or relationship. "Teen Talkers" provides an opportunity to improve communication and presentation skills. These youth meet on a monthly basis for training and then use technology to research topics such as citizenship, character counts, agriculture's importance, youth entrepreneurship, and the arts. They prepare presentations and serve on a Speaker's Bureau as a way to share the information with others.

**Congressional Award:** The Congressional Award is the highest award given to youth in America and is the only award established by the United States Congress to recognize outstanding youth. It was first signed into law in Jimmy Carter's term as President and a separate law was passed so that the medals could be minted in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing just as our US currency. 151 youth in Mississippi began working toward the Congressional Award this past year. Fifty-seven North Mississippi youth received the Bronze, Silver or Gold medal in 2001.

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