

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Local Educator to Become 'Google Certified' at Google Teacher Academy**

Walnut Creek, CA, July 5, 2011 — Google™ has selected White Bear Lake Area Schools' Technology Integration Coordinator Mark Garrison as an attendee at the next Google Teacher Academy in July.

The Google Teacher Academy is a free professional development experience designed to help K-12 educational leaders get the most from innovative technologies. Each Academy is an intensive, one-day event where participants get hands-on experience with Google's products and technologies, learn about innovative instructional strategies, and receive resources to share with colleagues. Upon completion, Academy participants become Google Certified Teachers who share what they learn with other K-12 educators in their local regions and beyond.

Garrison is the only Minnesota educator selected for the July Google Teacher Academy. He is also one of only 15 educators selected to attend an additional YouTube Teacher's Studio event, a program intended to spark a transformation in the way teachers connect with students both in and out of the classroom.

"I am honored to be representing White Bear Lake Area Schools at the Google Teacher Academy and YouTube Teacher's Studio," said Garrison. "I look forward to connecting with other innovative educators from around the world and learning new ways to leverage the power of technology to improve student learning, then sharing those ideas with my colleagues here in White Bear as we implement technology-specific strategic planning initiatives this year."

Garrison recently helped facilitate a District-wide implementation of Google Apps, a free suite of web tools. White Bear Lake Area Schools staff members and students now have access to Google programs such as email, documents, spreadsheets, presentations, forms, and drawing capabilities.

Google Certified Teachers are exceptional K-12 educators with a passion for using innovative tools to improve teaching and learning, as well as creative leaders and ambassadors for change. They are recognized experts and widely admired for their commitment to high expectations for students, life-long learning and collaboration.

The Google Certified Teacher program was launched in 2006 with the first Academy held at Google headquarters in Mountain View. The program has since held several academies around the globe, expanding the ranks of Google Certified Teachers. The Google Teacher Academy is produced by Google, in collaboration with CUE and WestEd, both educational non-profit organizations.

Contact Person: Dr. Mark Wagner  
Company Name: Computer-Using Educators (CUE, Inc.)  
Telephone Number: 949.639.9743  
Email Address: [mwagner@cue.org](mailto:mwagner@cue.org)  
Web site address: [www.google.com/educators/gta](http://www.google.com/educators/gta)



###