

June 29, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

Every once in a while, a simple but powerful idea emerges in teacher education. A company called CaseNEX--a spin-off from the University of Virginia--has one that may help revolutionize the way educators learn and teachers teach.

CaseNEX starts with educational life as it is. It works with other stakeholders to identify problems and opportunities. It seeks to bring professional knowledge to bear to improve educational life in demonstrable ways.


To do so, the Company offers multimedia Web cases in the context of an electronic professional learning community. Teams of educators, both preservice and inservice, analyze these slices of life from K-12 schools, using methods similar to those used in law, business, and medicine. Participants communicate with one another face-to-face and via synchronous real time and asynchronous anytime communication tools on the Web.

Educators who are distant geographically or philosophically learn about each other and about themselves in the process. Cases emanate from schools in United States, Cuba, India, and South Africa. Teachers and school administrators from as far away as Canada, England, France, and Norway have participated.

Case methods and educational standards complement each other. Standards help educators frame and judge educational actions in schools. At the same time, cases of teaching and learning stretch educators to demonstrate professional behavior that meets standards. It is professional teaching that CaseNEX aims to encourage.

Keep an eye on CaseNEX ([casenex.com](http://casenex.com))

Cordially,



Arthur E. Wise