



### **Videoconference Bridge Service for 2006-2007**

The Distance Learning department has had quite a successful year helping districts make their curriculum connections. We look forward to a very busy year with your upcoming videoconference bridging needs using the ESBOCES RIC bridge. With the help of the bridge, many schools made connections to these top content providers: The Challenger Learning Center, COSI (Columbus Science Institute), Manhattan School of Music, Bronx Zoo, Liberty Science Center, The Wetlands Institute, Indianapolis Zoo, Cincinnati Zoo, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, MoMA, Museum of Tolerance, and NASA agencies.

Why would you need access to a bridge? A bridge can be used to “connect” two different types of protocols used, such as TCP/IP and ISDN. If your district only has a TCP/IP connection and the school or content provider has an ISDN connection, a bridge would be needed to make the connection. This bridge connects two or more videoconference sites together so that they can simultaneously pass data, voice and video.

A Videoconferencing bridge is often called a MCU (multipoint conferencing unit). The Distance Learning team utilizes the Accord bridge’s software interface to connect one or more schools to their chosen content provider for curriculum enrichment.

**If your district is not participating in the Distance Learning Videoconference package this year, there will be a charge for bridge usage. The videoconference bridge service for the 2006-2007 school year is \$50 per hour. Whatever your connection needs, the Distance Learning staff and bridge are ready to assist you.**

