

press release

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Anne Arundel County Public Library offers new online resource for homework help and career assistance

(August 17 10, 2010 – Annapolis, MD) Just in time for back-to-school, the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) is launching the **Brainfuse eLearning Suite™**. This online resource for homework, academic and career assistance includes **HelpNow™**, **StudyNow™** and **JobNow™** for students in kindergarten through the adult learner. The entire suite of learning tools is available to all library patrons from the public computers at their local library or online from their home, school or business computer with a valid library card number.

Brainfuse is available seven days a week from 3 to 10 p.m. Any library cardholder can access the services and connect for a one-to-one live session with a carefully screened tutor or job coach. Live sessions can be conducted in English or Spanish.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer such a high quality and valuable learning tool just at the time that our patrons need it most,” said Nancy Choice, AACPL interim administrator. “With students in grades K through 12 going back to our county’s elementary, middle and high schools and more adults than ever returning to the classroom to acquire or update job skills, the Library’s goal is to be well positioned to support all of their academic and career-related goals.”

About HelpNow

HelpNow provides library patrons with live, on-demand homework help and state-aligned skills building lessons from expert tutors as well as a 24-hour writing lab and access to a robust test center. Tutors and students communicate in real time in an online classroom by typing, drawing, and marking-up lessons and web content. Subjects covered are math, science, English, social studies and Spanish. Spanish speaking tutors are available as well.

Students can also use a secure file-sharing feature in the writing lab to submit writing assignments to writing instructors at any time. Writing tutors will return the file with extensive, detailed comments within 24 hours. These writing experts are trained to help students focus on voice, word choice, grammar, content, sentence fluency, and organization.

The **Brainfuse** full-service test center offers practice tests for all grade levels in math, reading, and writing including the SAT, ACT, GED and more.

About StudyNow

StudyNow is an advanced suite of collaborative and self-study tools comprised of three parts: **Brainwave**, **Flashbulb**, and **Meet**. **Brainwave** is a messaging tool that allows comments and explanations to be recorded on the **Brainfuse Notepad**, which then archives them for future use, and allows them to be shared with others. **Brainwave** is ideal for teaching or learning any concept that requires motion, sequence, or animation.

Flashbulb is an online flashcard tool that allows students to browse through an extensive library of pre-made flashcards – each of which can then be turned into a hangman game, crossword puzzle, or word scramble, among many other options. Users can also to create their own flashcards.

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The **Meet** feature allows the set-up of live tutoring sessions in the *Brainfuse* online classroom with friends, colleagues, teachers, etc. Groups can use the advanced communication tools to study together, collaborate on projects, and even record sessions for future playback.

About JobNow

JobNow offers practical tools to help users find employment using one or all of three services that include: **Find a Job** which offers informative, easy-to-use, and free Internet resources for job seekers; **Write the Resume**, which features a resume templates and internet resources for crafting the perfect resume, as well as a *Resume Lab* in which **JobNow** experts will provide expert analysis within 24 hours; and **Ace the Interview**, which provides resources including *Live Interview Coaching*.

To access *Brainfuse*, go to www.aacpl.net and click on "Homework Center." The **Brainfuse Learning Suite** expands upon the services offered previously to AACPL patrons by *Live Homework Help* from Tutor.com. For more information about these or any other Library services, visit any AACPL branch, go online to www.aacpl.net or call 410.222.7371.

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