

#### www.moldovawcf.org

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT
Ray F. West. Jr.
Hendersonville, NC
828.551.8209
ray.west@moldovawcf.org

CHAIRMAN Albert S. Gooch, Jr. Flat Rock, NC

C. Bruce Ashe Hendersonville, NC

Victor V. Bubuioc Charlotte, NC

Asif J. Chaudhry
Former U.S. Ambassador to Moldova
Pullman, WA

Leslie G. Johnson New York, NY

S. Joyce Jolly Hendersonville, NC

Michael D. Kirby Former U.S. Amb. to Moldova & Serbia Washington, DC

> Stephen B. Mackler Greensboro, NC

Elaine F. Marshall N.C. Secretary of State Raleigh, NC

John N. Maxemchuk *Vice President* Chisinau, Moldova

> Craig M. Mix Spartanburg, SC

James R. Olson Flat Rock, NC

Sergio A. Porres Fairfax Station, VA

William A. Vogel Atlanta, GA

### DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Mason G. Alexander Charleston, SC Just when things were beginning to look up for the children and financially strapped people of Moldova, back-to-back disasters struck...two years of COVID-19, followed by three years of all out war right next door.

Fallout from the pandemic and the devastating implications of Russia's imperialistic and genocidal invasion of close neighbor Ukraine have been beyond frightening. Throw in alternating droughts and floods to better comprehend the challenges faced by the most vulnerable.

In February 2022, Moldova World Children's Fund (MWCF) was already pushing the limits of its capacity to help as many as possible, when an avalanche of war victims began arriving literally overnight. Staff worked non-stop for months and twenty years' worth of cash reserves were exhausted. We remained committed to maintaining our traditional aid programs, but realized we must help thousands of desperate refugees...the great majority being mothers, grandparents, and children...some in urgent need of medical attention.

Activity highlights of the last twelve months include:

- ... foremost has been to stay the course by maintaining our 25-year support for the Drochia orphanage and continuing our commitments of education sponsorships for deserving students;
- ... two large seaborne containers with 48,000 lbs. of medical equipment, hygiene supplies, educational materials, and emergency items shipped Raleigh-Norfolk-Constanta-Chisinau by the North Carolina-Moldova Partnership and Guilford Rotary Club for distribution;
- ... MWCF's Board of Directors 2024 Annual Meeting was held in Moldova for the first time, with an in-person membership quorum attending;
- ... Casa Irina, a community center serving children of the northern villages of Ruseni and Goleni, was officially dedicated with U.S. Ambassador to Chisinau Kent Logsdon and Moldova Ambassador to Washington Viorel Ursu joining the MWCF Board and local mayors, children and parents as participants;



- ... The North Carolina-Moldova Partnership was renewed by NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Prime Minister Dorin Recean, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mihai Popsoi.
- ... Western European charity SMHO from The Netherlands provided eight large trucks of hospital beds, medical equipment and school furniture for MWCF and longtime colleague International Center for Collaboration and Development "PHOENIX" to allocate among facilities around the country;
- ... Vice Chairman Jim Olson and wife Kitty toured MWCF's ongoing and potentially future project sites in September;
- ... Regional agribusiness company Trans-Oil Group began its collaboration with MWCF by helping fund aid programs across Moldova;
- ... North Carolina congregations at Grace Church of the Mountains, Waynesville; Saint John-In-The-Wilderness, Flat Rock; and the Korean Presbyterian Church of Asheville funded major Moldovan and Ukrainian relief and recovery missions in cooperation with MWCF.

Additionally, individuals personally volunteered in driving a truckload of critical humanitarian assistance to an aid station in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

Please find enclosed an updated MWCF Board of Directors catalog of member bios...with a revised front-page synopsis of operations...the back page an expanded 5-year look at financial activities.

Health issues of staff and a shortage of badly needed contributions have threatened to derail our work. Hurricane Helene and other natural disasters across the southeastern United States have curtailed fundraising efforts within MWCF's traditional donor base. This is no time to abandon ship.

The challenges facing Moldova's children in an increasingly dangerous world continue to evolve...their gripping needs must remain a priority.

You are encouraged to help us by mailing a generous gift using the enclosed return envelope or sending an online donation via the PayPal link inside our website www.moldovawcf.org.

Thank you,

Ray West, MWCF President

Ray F. West. J.





VVith roots dating back to 1998,
Moldova World Children's Fund, Inc. (MWCF)
is a North Carolina, USA based not-for-profit
non-governmental international charity. Most
of its operations focus on the Republic of
Moldova, the least developed country in
Eastern Europe, located near the Black Sea
where its people struggle to evolve from the
stifling remnants of the former Soviet Union.

MWCF is led by its founding president and fourteen other non-paid volunteer board members spread across the United States and Moldova...all dedicated to helping the less fortunate.

Support comes from financial donors and actively engaged colleagues from around the world. Individual cash contributions are leveraged by individual donors, participating governments, businesses, and other non-profits primarily in the USA and Western Europe. Some projects are developed in partnership with regional agribusiness logistics company Trans-Oil Group. In-country management is principally provided by Moldova non-governmental organization International Center for Collaboration and Development "PHOENIX".

Activities concentrate in five areas:
(1) constructing and renovating buildings and infrastructure...(2) enabling urgent surgeries and critical medical care for desperate individuals...
(3) providing educational support in the form of establishing computer labs, donating classroom textbooks and materials, and supporting deserving students with tuition and living expenses helping to motivate them to continue their education beyond grade school...
(4) contributing humanitarian aid to hospitals, schools, orphanages, community centers, Hospice, farmers, and others in need...and



(5) more recently, regional crisis relief.



"...a shared commitment to relieve suffering and improve the lives of children"



The best thing we can do for the children is help the war end on a relatively positive note as soon as possible.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** CATALOG

...AS OF WINTER 2024/2025

Aid is transported across Europe by large trucks and from the United States in 45-foot seaborne containers and aboard C-17 cargo airplanes in joint effort with the N.C. Air National Guard, the office of the N.C. Secretary of State, and the official Republic of Moldova - North Carolina Partnership Program.



We surmise the majority of places targeted by Russian forces are civilian, not military.



Three suitable steps in evaluating the merit of a charity are to: (1) examine the caliber of its Board of Directors and staff, (2) trace where the money it receives goes and how it is spent, and (3) explore the extent and effectiveness exhibited in meeting its stated purpose. Readers are encouraged to review (and share) the following pages for an understanding of how MWCF establishes and maintains its credibility and worthiness as an organization...meet the Directors who have adopted the cause... scrutinize the pie chart of how donations are spent...survey the pin map showing the broad range of projects throughout Moldova.

moldovawcf.org (USA) 828-551-8209 ray.west@moldovawcf.org

# Moldova World Children's Fund, Inc. (MWCF) Board of Directors ...as of Winter 2024/2025

- ~ Membership Expectations / Nomination Criteria ~
- Have lived or worked in Moldova, or to commit to visiting Moldova by the end of one's term on the Board.
- Volunteer by personally assisting in the direction, program, promotion, and fundraising efforts of MWCF.
- 3. Make attending Annual Board meetings a high priority.
- Contribute financially at a comfortable and realistic level in order for MWCF to annually report 100% Board of Directors participation.
- 5. Host the Board of Director's annual business meeting at or near one's home at least once during membership.

Elaine F. Marshall, the first woman elected to a statewide executive branch office in North Carolina, began her initial 4-year term as NC Secretary of State in January 1997. She is a former teacher, small business owner, attorney, and NC Senator. The office helps strengthen NC's economy by promoting financial capital formation in the state, and more than 2 million businesses have been launched during her tenure. Due to her commitment to international business, she was awarded the International Trade Lifetime Achievement Award from the Charlotte Business Journal and currently co-Chairs the Coalition for Global Competitiveness. She has served as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State and has received numerous state and national awards for innovation and leadership. A founding member of the Moldova World Children's Fund Board of Directors, Secretary Marshall has been Chair of the North Carolina - Republic of Moldova Partnership since its inception in 1999. In 2024, she was bestowed with the Order of the Republic, Moldova's highest honor, by Moldova President Maia Sandu.



Elaine Marshall North Carolina Secretary of State Charter Member Raleigh

North Carolina



Ray West
President and
Founder
Hendersonville
North Carolina

Ray F. West, Jr. is the founder, continuing President, and Chief Operating Officer of Moldova World Children's Fund, Inc. He holds an Economics/Social Sciences BA from the University of North Carolina-Asheville with undergraduate philosophy studies at Oxford University-England and post graduate work in computer programming at Western Carolina University. Ray was in the U.S. Navy 1968-2002 including active duty in communications security, submarine rescue, and as an in-country South Korea foreign military advisor. He had four Naval Reserve commanding officer tours, one awarded Best Unit Afloat, FY86, on nuclear-capable guided missile destroyer USS William V. Pratt (DDG-44). Captain West is a Surface Warfare Officer, martial artist, and weapons expert. As a civilian, he was Vice President - Kanuga Conferences, 1977-2005, as administrator, business manager, and personnel director. He was elected President of the International Association of Conference Center Administrators, South East. A former U.S. European Command projects manager, he has been engaged in providing humanitarian assistance in Moldova since 1998.

Albert S. Gooch, Jr. is a graduate of Mississippi College who spent 23 years in Tennessee as a teacher and coach at Sewanee Military Academy and as alumni director and director of admissions at the University of the South. In 1983 he became the 23-year president of Kanuga Conferences where he led a major renovation of the 1,400-acre Episcopal center and its two resident camps while building two significant endowments. In 2005, he formed a fund-raising consulting firm, which as its president, served clients from London, England to the USA west coast state of Oregon. In 1998, Albert helped establish the Moldova World Children's Fund during its infant stages...then as a charter member became its first Board of Directors Chairman and Chief Development Officer...a volunteer position he continues to hold, having made multiple working trips to the Republic of Moldova. He holds honorary doctorates from the Virginia Episcopal Seminary and The University of the South. Albert served locally as chairman of United Way, president of his Rotary Club and Chairman of the Flat Rock Playhouse, the official state theater of North Carolina.



Albert Gooch
Chairman
Charter Member
Flat Rock
North Carolina



Michael Kirby Former U.S. Ambassador to Moldova & Serbia Washington

Michael D. Kirby joined the Board in 2018 following years of working closely with Moldova World Children's Fund. He was drawn to the MWCF Board by its focus on the neediest people in a country struggling to find its place in the world. Ambassador Kirby received a BA in History from the University of Pennsylvania and then studied at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Following three years as a high school teacher, Ambassador Kirby entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1980, twice serving as Ambassador, to Moldova 2006-2008 and Serbia 2012-2016. Between ambassadorial stints, he was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA). With a staff of 11,000, CA processes all visas for people to enter the United States, issues all American passports, and serves as well helping Americans abroad. His overseas postings included Seoul, South Korea; Warsaw, Poland; Frankfurt, Germany; Copenhagen, Denmark; Krakow, Poland; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Georgetown, Guyana. His final assignment was as Deputy Transparency Coordinator scrutinizing the State Department's handling of email.

William A. Vogel is a Chartered Financial Analyst and Chartered Investment Counselor originally from Cleveland, Ohio. He received a B.S.B.A in Accounting from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and a Masters of Business from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He worked at First Union National Bank before becoming a securities analyst and portfolio manager with Wachovia's Trust Investment Department in Winston-Salem, NC. Bill joined the investment advisory firm of Montag & Caldwell in 1988 and served as the firm's CEO from 2006-2018. He is now a Principal and Vice Chairman of the Atlanta, Georgia based company which has discretionary assets under management of \$800 million. He was a 15-year member of the Board of Visitors of the Fugua School of Business at Duke University. Active in the United Methodist Church, Bill has been Chairman of the Onnie Mae Spruill Foundation for over fifteen years, Board Treasurer of Grant Park Health Clinic and a Board member and head of the Investment Committee of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. He is past Chairman of the Empty Stocking Fund and a 25-year Rotarian.



Bill Vogel Strategy & Economics Atlanta Georgia



Former U.S.

Ambassador to

Moldova

Pullman

Washington

Asif J. Chaudhry, Senior Advisor to the Provost & Executive Vice President of Washington State University. He is a board member of Moldova's largest agricultural producer, processor, and exporter: Trans-Oil Group of Companies. Pakistani-American Dr. Chaudhry was U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova 2008-2011, then for three years Foreign Policy Advisor to Chief of U.S. Naval Operations. During his State Department career, he was instrumental in formation of trade agreements with South Korea, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. He served U.S. Embassies as Attache-Warsaw, Counselor for Agricultural Affairs-Moscow, and Minister Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. He was V.P. of the Commodity Credit Corporation of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. He completed his undergraduate at University of Punjab, Pakistan, Master's at American University - Beirut, Lebanon, and PhD in ageconomics from Washington State. He speaks English, Polish, Russian, Arabic, Urdu and Punjabi. Asif and wife Charla worked closely with MWCF renovating boarding schools for orphans in Moldova during his ambassadorship in Chisinau.

Victor V. Bubuioc, originally from the Republic of Moldova and now a U.S. citizen, is the owner/operator of Overtop Media Digital Marketing in Charlotte, North Carolina. His company helps small and medium-sized businesses grow. Victor has a diverse entrepreneurial background, including owning Wingstop restaurant franchises and co-founding Queen City Home Renovation in Charlotte, NC along with a fellow Moldovan from his village. As a youngster, he and his schoolmates benefited from a United States military and Moldova World Children's Fund renovation of the central heating systems at the two public schools in his hometown of Lapusna, Moldova. Learning English from a Peace Corps Volunteer, he was sponsored by MWCF, the family of Board of Directors' Chairman Albert Gooch, and other friends to continue his education in North Carolina. He graduated from Christ School in Arden, NC, earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management from North Carolina's Brevard College and an MBA from Western Carolina University. Victor has served on the MWCF Board since 2009.



Victor Bubuioc
Media & Culture

Charlotte

North Carolina



John Maxemchuk Vice President Chisinau

Moldova

John N. Maxemchuk has lived in Moldova since 2003, making him the longest full-time resident American in the country. He is a business executive and entrepreneur bringing both professional education and experience to Moldova. John received a B.S. in Finance from The Wharton School, a B.A. in International Relations with focus on Eastern European Economic Transition from the University of Pennsylvania, and an MBA from Harvard Business School. John was CEO, Sun Communications - Moldova 2003-2016, then COO, Purcari Wineries where he helped lead the first international IPO of a Moldovan company on an international stock exchange. He has helped Moldova in developing its own domestic renewable energy generation and has been a leader in creating private education options in Chisinau. He co-founded the American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova and served as its first president for six years, remaining on the board through 2023. He is a founding member and past chairman of East Europe Foundation Moldova. John has supported the North Carolina - Moldova Partnership since 2004.

James R. Olson, a native of Chicago, Illinois, grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and has resided in Flat Rock, North Carolina since 1985. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Florida, and received a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree from Northwestern University in 1974. Jim practiced general dentistry for 11 years in Ft. Lauderdale before moving to North Carolina where he practiced in Hendersonville for almost 29 years until his retirement in 2014. He is active in his church, St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church, Flat Rock, NC, having served in many leadership roles. He is currently in charge of maintenance of the Historic Churchyard cemetery. Jim volunteers helping maintain the trails in Pisgah National Forest with the Carolina Mountain Club. He is Secretary of the Flat Rock Park and Recreation Foundation board of directors. Jim and his wife Kitty have served Moldova World Children's Fund as active volunteers since 2012. Having traveled in various capacities to over 50 different countries, the Olsons provide a world of international experience to the MWCF team.



Jim Olson Vice Chairman Flat Rock North Carolina



Steve Mackler
Professional
Exchanges
Greensboro
North Carolina

**Bruce Ashe** 

Financial

Development

Hendersonville

North Carolina

Stephen B. Mackler, a native of North Carolina, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina, then his D.D.S. and M.S. from UNC School of Dentistry. Active military duty followed through 1974, obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve. Licensed in NC, Florida, and Virgin Islands, Dr. Mackler's specialty board certifications include Diplomate, American Boards of Periodontology and Geriatric Dentistry. Steve's research interest is Periodontal Disease in Children. Published four times, he has taught at UNC, in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. He is currently Adjunct Assistant Professor at UNC and Adjunct Associate Professor, State University, Republic of Moldova. An active international Rotarian, he was chosen Rotarian of the Year 1997, 2005, and 2015 by his Guilford County, NC club. He was selected International Dentist of the Year, Academy of Dentistry International 1999. Steve has been instrumental in initiating and coordinating North Carolina-Moldova partnership exchange programs in geriatrics, plastic surgery, pediatrics, physical medicine, pharmacy, nursing, and general surgery.

S. Joyce Jolly, MSN, Colonel (Retired), United States Army Nurse Corps is a native of North Carolina. After three years as an Army medic and finishing nursing school, she earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte. She received her United States Army officer commission in 1975, and a dual Master's in Nursing and Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. Military assignments included head nurse, medical surgical unit, Combat Support Hospital, Southwest Asia, multiple chief nurse positions in Germany, and as Commander, Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Colonel Jolly was awarded the Legion of Merit and is a five-time recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal. She retired from the Army to become a nursing education consultant/faculty member/planner for Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina. A member of the Lions Club, Joyce currently resides in Hendersonville, NC and volunteers for several non-profit organizations, including as a member of the Board of Directors of the Henderson County Hunger Coalition.



Joyce Jolly Secretary Hendersonville North Carolina



Sergio Porres Treasurer Fairfax Station Virginia

Sergio A. Porres, native of Guatemala City, Guatemala, moved to the United States in 1984. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and deployed aboard USS Enterprise and USS Abraham Lincoln. From there, he attended San Francisco State University, graduating with a BA in International Relations and receiving an Air Force officer commission. He holds a MA in National Security from Naval Post Graduate School and a MA in Human Relations from University of Oklahoma. Sergio served in the U.S., Africa, and Europe, including three years in Moldova as Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation. There he and his wife Alejandra were instrumental in initiating and helping MWCF direct renovation and expansion of the Guiding Star center for handicapped children in the village of Gratiesti. He has helped manage multibillion dollar defense programs and provide civilian communities with medical, sanitation and education infrastructure. He retired from the military in 2022. Sergio currently works as a foreign affairs specialist...managing international agreements for the U.S. Air Force in Science and Technology.

Leslie G. Johnson is a resident of both New York City and Charlotte, North Carolina. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Leslie graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. One highlight of her time in college was being inducted into the Ole Miss Hall of Fame. She moved to New York City and began a career in the fashion industry where she worked for Chris Burch from 1990 - 2005 in product development for private labels. During the years 2005 - 2011, Leslie created and oversaw her own apparel collection which she named Josephine & Laurentina. She presently works as an apparel development consultant and as promotion and development advisor to Moldova World Children's Fund. Leslie helped develop the J. Christopher Burch Empathy Training facility at New York University Langone Hospital. She is on the boards of the nationwide Partnership to End Addiction and Horizon's at St. David's helping underserved boys grades K-9 in Harlem, New York. Leslie follows her father James Gordon and his wife Alice of Fairhope, Alabama on MWCF's Board of Directors.



Leslie Johnson Public Relations New York City New York

C. Bruce Ashe, a native of Asheville, North Carolina, is currently First Vice President-Investments and a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor with Wells Fargo Advisors in Hendersonville, NC. He has been an Advisor since 1994, first with J. C. Bradford of Nashville, Tennessee...afterward upon its acquisition by Paine Webber, and subsequently by Switzerland's UBS, the largest private bank in the world. Bruce joined Wells Fargo Advisors in 2008. Actively involved at First Baptist Church – Hendersonville, NC as a Deacon and currently chairman of the mission's committee which is a major portion of the church's annual budget. A 1975 graduate of the University of North Carolina-Asheville with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science he spent the first part of his working career in management with K-Mart corporation until he began his career as an Investment Advisor. A member of the Lion's Club of Hendersonville, NC since 1999, he has served as a board member and as President in the past. Bruce has been an active volunteer for Moldova World Children's Fund since 2011.

Craig M. Mix, a former Blackhawk helicopter pilot, since 2016 the Chief of Military Programs for the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) in Washington, DC. Colonel Mix transitioned from army active duty in 2022 to government civil service, remaining in the same position at CMH. A North Carolina native, Craig received a B.S. at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC and a Masters, with honors, from American Military University in Charles Town, West Virginia. During 2007 - 2010, he was stationed within the Moldova Ministry of Defense in Chisinau as the Moldova-North Carolina country-state Partnership Program's Bilateral Affairs Officer promoting regional stability. Here he worked closely with Moldova World Children's Fund on various humanitarian assistance programs. He was with Sprint Corporation as Client Executive Southeast, Federal Accounts, Army/Air Force. From 2014 to 2021, Craig worked at Trimble Navigation as Director, Department of Homeland Security sales. He is the newly appointed Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp (JROTC) Senior Army Instructor at South Carolina's Spartanburg High School.

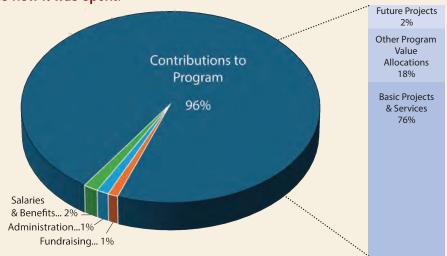


Craig Mix Military Affairs Spartanburg South Carolina



## Total 5 Year Income (2019 - 2023) from Cash Donations/Additions and Gifts-In-Kind \$6,158,112

This is how it was spent:



MWCF 2019 - 2023 Expenses	5 Y	/ear Totals	Per Year Average
Basic Projects and Services (~76%)	. \$	4,701,056	\$ 940,211
Other Program Value Allocations (~18%)		1,108,943	21,789
• Net Additions earmarked for Future Projects (~2%) .		109,133	 21,827
Contributions to Program (~95%)	. \$	5,919,132	\$ 1,183,827
• Salaries, Benefits, and Payroll Taxes (~2%)	. \$	94,724	\$ 18,945
Administration and General (~1%)		78,637	15,727
• Fundraising, Promotion and Travel (~1%)		65,619	 13,124
Total Managerial Expenses (~4%)	. \$	238,980	\$ 47,796

Some government funding goes directly to project service providers (e.g., construction companies), does not pass through MWCF's books, and is not reflected in these figures.

Also not shown is the 2022 one-time delivery facilitation of several million dollars of antibiotics and pain relieving medications directly into Ukraine.

MWCF is an approved IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered in the state of North Carolina. Form 990 is filed annually and is available at the IRS and NCSOS as public information. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-814-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Moldova World Children's Fund, Inc. P.O. Box 548 Hendersonville, NC 28793-0548 (USA)

### **MWCF PROJECT SITES SINCE 1998**



YELLOW

Hospital Equipment, Furniture, Supplies for Medical Institutions

OWHITE Recreational Support

 $... School\ Gymnastic/Sports\ Equipment... Team\ Uniforms$ 

... Equipped Playgrounds...Kindergarten Toy Caches

GREEN Farm Support and Home Care

...Heavy Duty Waterproof Work Boots...Clothes & Shoes

...Household Furniture & Appliances...Food, Hygiene, Personal & Home Supplies

PINK Internet Wired Multi Workstation Desktop Computer Labs

## ● BLUE ● Learning Material for K-12 through University Level Education

... Modern Textbooks covering all principal academic subjects

...Library and Classroom Videos, Journals, Wallposters, Teacher & Student aids