

Title of Session: Pre-Service Teachers
Moderator: Jan Naher-Snowden
Title of File: 20030410pst
Date: April 10, 2003

Room: ASO

Jan_NS: Hi, Tyler

TylerP: Hello

BJ: Tyler, can you tell Jan about your research?

Jan_NS: BJ was telling me that you have special interest in our preservice group?

BJ: o O (Jan is the leader of the Pre-service group, Tyler)

TylerP: It's nice to meet you Jan. I am working toward my master degree at Gannon Univ. in Erie, PA in Educational Computing Tech. I am mainly interested in learning how preservice teachers are being prepared to use tech. in their coursework. (Not just specifically educ. courses)

Jan_NS: good question - how might this group assist you?

Jan_NS: I assume that you are familiar with the ISTE standards for preservice teachers?

TylerP: Well, it would be interesting for me to hear how preservice teachers feel about the extent to which tech. is incorporated into their field experiences/practicums/placements/etc.

TylerP: For instance, are they competent teaching with tech (and how) once they enter a classroom on their own.

Jan_NS: wow, given the disparity that technology is used in the schools in general, you will probably find that most preservice teachers have highly varied exposure to integrated technology in those venues.

Jan_NS: a lot of their teaching with tech will and is controlled by the classroom teacher.

TylerP: Yes! You sure hit that on the head. That has been one of the biggest issues for me as a researcher to narrow down.

TylerP: Yes, I agree. As a preservice teacher I had a very tech. advanced cooperating teacher and it was easy for me to learn by doing with his guidance

TylerP: Mainly, powerpoint, elmo, webquests....just to give you an idea. However, as a rookie in the field, it would have been overwhelming if I had not had a supportive mentor.

Jan_NS: the feedback I have received from students is that sometimes they have developed a lesson integrating tech. and have been discouraged from implementing the lesson mainly because of the classroom teacher's discomfort with their perceived loss of control.

Jan_NS: their being the classroom teacher's

TylerP: Good point. You see Jan, it's that type of insight that has driven me to research such a vast and extensive topic. Another question to you would be aimed at How are the colleges of ed. preparing preservice teachers to implement tech?

Jan_NS: a bit of history might help here - I have taught at two different colleges in courses that attempt to address the needs of preservice teachers in the arena of integrating technology.

TylerP: I'm sure you have a plethora of suggestions and ideas regarding what works and what does not.

Jan_NS: some colleges take the approach that students need skill based courses to master software, etc. and then the more advanced methods courses' instructors model lessons with integrated technology

Jan_NS: A large part of that is the problem of the disparate comfort levels and knowledge of the technology of those course instructors

TylerP: It might be important for you to realize that the only type of classroom experience I've had has been 6 months student teaching. However, I was more prepared at this point in my educ. career considering that Human Dev. was my undergrad. I received a PA teachers cert. from Edinboro.

Jan_NS: Too many believe that they are integrating technology when they are using a powerpoint for direct instruction instead of a traditional chalk and talk lecture.

TylerP: Absolutely! There's much more to it than that. Powerpoint is a glorified overhead with audio capabilities. (insert a bit of humor)

Jan_NS: and enough animation to get you seasick

TylerP: LOL

Jan_NS: So, you really have a variety of topics that interweave and form the basis of your investigation.

TylerP: Yes, I do agree with you Jan. I believe educators at all levels find themselves in a transitional phase in regards to tech. in the classroom.

Jan_NS: very true.

TylerP: Much work on my behalf is surely needed. I'm working on my first part of my thesis -- NARROWING DOWN A PROBLEM!!

Jan_NS: And the real classroom teacher who is integrating technology into the curriculum in a meaningful way (transparent and as the best tool for the situation) are few and far between.

TylerP: Yes...I hope you don't mind if I at least sit back and read along with you and your colleagues.

Jan_NS: So, which area is striking you as a more manageable? the experiences of preservice teachers with their professors modeling meaningful technology integration, or the experiences of those preservice teachers in field placements, etc.

Jan_NS: seems we are not having much of crowd here tonight.

TylerP: At this point in the game, probably "A" considering I have a good deal of access to the education dept. and work well with many of the professors (who seem to be very cooperative of my undertakings thus far).

TylerP: Although, there is a fine line b/t both of your questions

Jan_NS: true, but I think that you make a case for a large chasm at the same time.

TylerP: Sorry...I had a call. Yes, I need to chose one or the other

Jan_NS: I have been very frustrated with the reluctance of some of our faculty to make much of an effort to work on the problem.

TylerP: It seems that frustration is the case on many campuses across the country.

Jan_NS: we can always make an appt. to chat at another time.

BJ . o O (or post as a topic on the preservice group discussion list!)

Jan_NS: good point.

TylerP: No problem, unless you would like to meet later.

Jan_NS: given that I do not see others piling in for the discussion...

TylerP: I like the sounds of that! I'm always interested in different perspectives.

Jan_NS: what do you think, BJ?

BJ: It might be a good idea to post to the list so you can get some feedback from others in the group

Jan_NS: you could get a variety of perspectives that way.

BJ Nods

BJ: did you join the group, Tyler?

TylerP: Would it be alright if I join?

TylerP: No...not yet

Jan_NS: I could also ask my students (~60 of them) for feedback on this issue.

TylerP: That would be splendid....much appreciated.

Jan_NS: I am a bit swamped tonight with grading so scheduling another time to chat would help me immensely.

TylerP: That is fine with me.

Jan_NS: that would be great, and please join the preservice discussion group.

BJ . o O (you can also email within this interface)

Jan_NS: Erie is only about 2 hours from me here in Akron.

TylerP: I would love to join and I will ASAP

TylerP: Oh great! I'm a big Cleveland fan (in fact, I'm watching the Indians losing 7-1)

Jan_NS: I am watching Star Trek 5: the final frontier

Jan_NS: and eating dinner

Jan_NS: trying not to get the crumbs on my laptop

TylerP: Sorry to disturb

TylerP: Looking forward to meeting up again sometime soon.

Jan_NS: we can schedule a time to chat in my Tapped In office here.

Jan_NS: and you can email me from this interface too

Jan_NS: have you had much discussion with other people from other universities?

TylerP: Probably good for me early next week.....I'll email you and then you can let me know what works for you.

Jan_NS: also are you familiar with wwvedu?

TylerP: No, not much discussion at all --

TylerP: somewhat familiar

Jan_NS: that might be another place to post your query.

TylerP: Great...thanks again.

Jan_NS: no problem - definitely one of those topics that I can discuss indefinitely

SusanM joined the room.

SusanM left the room.

TylerP: Me too....(unfortunately my research needs more of a fine-tuned approach.

Jan_NS: yes, that is the hard part.

Jan_NS: I am working on my prospectus for my doctoral dissertation.

TylerP: But a good topic, surely interesting from many points of view

Jan_NS: also check the ISTE website, and the SIGTE that they sponsor.

TylerP: How's that going?

TylerP: ISTE site has been very helpful and educational for me

Jan_NS: they have a special interest group for teacher education.

SusanR joined the room.

Jan_NS: my prospectus is going slowly at this point - I am feeling guilty because I have so much grading to do and get back to my students.

Jan_NS: Hi, Susan

TylerP: It's funny, every time I find an article to review, something in it leads me to a different thought process! (yikes)

TylerP: Hi Susan

SusanR: Hi Jan. Can I pop in to the last half of your session. I was working with a preservice teacher today.

Jan_NS: Tyler and I have been discussing the issues around preservice teachers and exposure to technology usage in field experiences, etc.

Jan_NS: he is working on a research proposal and is attempting to narrow his problem.

TylerP: Yes, quite an endless topic full of ideas

SusanR nods

TylerP: I feel scatter brained!

Jan_NS: Did you have specific needs, Susan?

SusanR: I notice preservice teachers are quite comfortable with technology.

TylerP: That's good to hear.

Jan_NS: I understand Tyler. I feel like one spoonful of jam being spread on a piece of toast that is about the size of a football field.

TylerP: LOL

Jan_NS: And my experience is that it is very variable. Some are, some aren't.

TylerP: Susan, do they (preservice) feel comfortable implementing tech. due to the training they received?

TylerP: Or is it a generational thing?

Jan_NS: I have taught over 500 preservice teachers in the past three years. In a course, Instructional Technology Applications.

Jan_NS: Actually, Tyler, I have survey data that I have collected over the past three years.

SusanR: They are using it for handouts and worksheets mostly.

TylerP: That is my next step -- survey

Jan_NS: I could send you the survey, it asks questions about comfort levels and knowledge with various software applications and how to integrate tech in the curriculum

SusanR: They are using technology to implement projects for grants with the help of Tech Integrators

Jan_NS: I gather the data pre and post course

TylerP: That's a great experience for preservice teachers...I'm just getting into that myself

Jan_NS: The course I teach is the second and last in a tech course sequence.

TylerP: Mixed results, or do they seem more comfortable after the course?

Jan_NS: somewhat more comfortable but definitely further along than at the beginning of the course, no matter where they were at the beginning. Those who were already comfortable are much more turned on to the possibilities

Jan_NS: those who were technophobic are less so.

TylerP: I can relate

Jan_NS: Are you familiar with "Stages of Concern" in relationship to new experiences and educational

innovations?

TylerP: No, I am not.

SusanR listens intently

Jan_NS: that might be another way to approach your research. No matter which direction that you take.

TylerP: What exactly are the "Stages"?

Jan_NS: given that all of us are really dealing with an education innovation, we are in various stages of a "relationship" with the innovation, in this case, meaningful integration of technology into the curriculum.

Jan_NS: No matter whether we are a preservice teacher, a university instructor, or a public school teacher.

TylerP: Alright, that seems to make complete sense.

SusanR agrees

Jan_NS: it might be interesting to investigate that relationship and then look at the correlation between the perceptions of the preservice teachers and their reported experiences with tech. in field experiences, etc.

Jan_NS: or in their education courses.

TylerP: In other words, there will always be different levels of competence regardless of who, what, where, and when

Jan_NS: let me see if I can find some online reference to "Stages of concern".

Jan_NS: Yes, exactly. the majority of my students (all ages, all backgrounds, traditional and non traditional) are "newbies" with the technology, other than word processing papers and doing email.

SusanR: I did a search on Google and came up with " 7 stages of concern"

Jan_NS: here is a good URL that might be a starting point.

Jan_NS: <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/educatrs/profdevl/pd2stage.htm>

Jan_NS: just click on the URL and it will open in a new window.

TylerP: Thanks Jan! I'll surely check it out.

TylerP: Jan, now that I've quickly glanced the web page, I remember reading or at least hearing about the stages.

MarianneH joined the room.

Jan_NS: Hi, Marianne

TylerP: Hello Marianne

MarianneH: Hi... IS this a regular session?

TylerP: It can be, right? Anybody?

MarianneH: Sorry I couldn't join last preservice session, Jan?

MarianneH: Doesn't have to be... just came with a question..

Jan_NS: a little of everything, Marianne. Tyler was asking about preservice teaches and their perceptions of technology usage in field experiences, etc.

MarianneH: I think, Tyler, that depends on the institution.

MarianneH: NCATE schools have to provide those experiences in their programs.

MarianneH: It is not always easy to find enough schools and classrooms for really meaningful experiences.

TylerP: Yes, I understand.

Jan_NS: Exactly, and on-campus experiences are spotty too

MarianneH: Are u in preservice education..

TylerP: Not anymore. I'm working toward my masters degree in Ed. Comp. Tech.

MarianneH: Where? That is my field.

TylerP: After I earned my PA cert, I got a grad assistantship at Gannon Univ. in Erie, PA

SusanR: PA???

MarianneH: Are you teaching the ed tech course? Many colleges have that in place

TylerP: No, I'm not currently teaching, but I work daily in the ed. tech. dept.

TylerP: In fact, we are in the process of rearranging the ed. comp. lab with the help of a grant.

MarianneH: Do you work with students or with faculty who are learning how to use it in their teaching? Tell us about the grant

JeffC joined the room.

JeffC waves

TylerP waves to JeffC

BJ waves hi to Jeff

Jan_NS: Hi, Jeff

SusanR waves to Jeff

TylerP: I was only asked three days ago to sit in on a grants writing committee and I work mainly with students.

SusanR: High school or elementary students, Tyler?

TylerP: However, I am a resident director and I am associated with the Student Living Office

TylerP: I am cert. in S.S. Secondary Ed, but will be doing a project here at Gannon that works with a methods class (S.S.) and tech. integration

TylerP: Trying to tie my cert. and my current area of study together.

Jan_NS: Sorry everyone, but I need to leave now. Please join us next month. Not sure what the topic will be as yet.

TylerP: Thanks for the info....see you soon

Jan_NS: I will be in touch, Tyler

Jan_NS: Night all.

TylerP: I appreciate it. Good night.

SusanR: Thanks Jan and Tyler. Some interesting points were brought up here with regard to implementing technology in the classroom. Good luck with your research Tyler.

TylerP: Thank you Susan....I'm sure we'll meet again.