

Title of Session: Teacher Ed Faculty Forum

Moderator: Jan Naher-Snowden and Marianne Handler

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Jan_NS: ah. we had planned to talk about the trials/challenges of providing field experiences with technology integrating teachers tonight.

BJ: I'm really interested in that, Jan

BJ: there was an article on the ASCD SmartBrief newsletter about using retired teachers to serve as mentors?

JeffC joined the room.

Jan_NS: problem we have at UA is that field experiences are seldom with teachers who integrate technology into the curriculum on a regular basis.

MarianneH joined the room.

BJ: wb, Marianne

Jan_NS: Hi, all!

MarianneH: Hi, I was here but think computer locked so I signed out and came back. Glad to see you all

DorisM joined the room.

MarianneH: Hi, Jeff, nice that you are back, also

Jan_NS: We spend a lot of energy on reinforcing the idea of integrating technology into the curriculum in a meaningful way and then we have no teachers who actually are doing that.

Jan_NS: The ones that do are swamped with visitors.

Jan_NS: Any ideas on how to provide realistic teacher examples?

MarianneH: Do those who are trying, doing out of one pattern of teachers? Could you have guessed who they would be?

BJ: during the tech class discussion yesterday there was a kindergarten teacher who was student teaching...and she had the kinders take digital pictures and then use the word processor

Jan_NS: other than video tapes.

MarianneH: concept mapping is very big and a LOT of our faculty are using Inspiration and then the candidates do as well.

Jan_NS: we have lots of student teachers who make the effort and are providing the inservice teachers with examples.

MarianneH: That is a great tool for teachers to start with.

Jan_NS: I agree Marianne, but my hope is to find inservice teachers in the schools who are integrating tech. in the curriculum. Then to place field experience students with them.

Jan_NS: We have field experience requirements in many classes before student teaching.

MarianneH: I just visited a edschool where candidates were getting great experiences in their classes but little technology in the schools where they were placed. that was soooo sad

MarianneH: BUT they were learning to be leaders in their own way with what they could try.

BJ: that also seemed to be the experience with people at the tech in the classroom discussion

Jan_NS: Exactly - and our situation is compounded by most of the full-time faculty not comfortable with providing meaningful experiences with the technology for the students in the methods classes.

MarianneH: I wonder if we would get a better commitment and interest if we talked curriculum first and then asked what they wanted to do and THEN introduced the technology that would help them do it???

Jan_NS: Maybe I am overly optimistic.

Jan_NS: Part of the problem is that the inservice teachers have no idea about what they want to do with the technology.

Jan_NS: Doris - you slipped into the room a bit ago. Welcome!

MarianneH: Nor do some of the faculty. We want to help each other there so there is a critical mass of, not only users, but using with belief in the power.

Jan_NS: Jeff, do you have any thoughts?

BJ: who provides training for the inservice teachers?

Jan_NS: I agree Marianne.

DorisM: Thanks!

Jan_NS: BJ - in Akron, there are short focus workshops but that generally leaves the inservice teachers with no experience and a great deal of helplessness

MarianneH: I think inservice teachers get support and help in many ways... some building/district prof dev, some take courses, some have mentor systems.. The question again in that area on ongoing nature... which it the problem I think Jeff is seeing

JeffC: multitasking here... but if you want to talk about concept mapping... take a look at: <http://cmap.ihmc.us/>

Jan_NS: The training is through the area specialists in our school district. It is unusual to have a long term workshop that deals with learning how to integrate tech. into social studies, for example.

Jan_NS: Or to take advantage of online resources for a certain concept or subject.

Jan_NS: Guess I am just voicing my frustration.

BJ . o O (or log in to Tapped In and take advantage of the pd opportunities here?)

Jan_NS: I have been teaching these classes for nearly four years and I am still searching for available and willing inservice teachers who are in the tech curriculum

Jan_NS: Yes, that too, BJ/

Jan_NS: But these teachers are so hesitant.

MarianneH: It all seems, in each case, very scattered... nothing that builds on anything before. No local vision or direction... is that a part of it?

Jan_NS: about tech just for themselves, let alone for their students.

MarianneH: We have a lot of districts that are doing good things... but they have spent time and \$\$ on ongoing professional development over time and there is administrative commitment.

BJ: I think the NCLB issue is also serving to distract educators from learning new things

Jan_NS: True, Marianne. When money started getting tight here in Ohio, the tech initiative just dried up.

MarianneH: To say the least. I have heard about schools that are taking tech money and put it into administrative assessment tools... very NCLB

Jan_NS: Our local district is not renewing 160 teacher contracts for next year due to Ohio's stupid method of school funding.

Jan_NS: I agree BJ

JeffC: you can attribute my layoff to budget cuts

MarianneH: So I guess we should look at tools that cost little... the applications they have not and great sites like <http://hprtec.org>

MarianneH: I did a full day workshop on hprtec at a local conference and it was great resources and they loved it.

Jan_NS: And yet, the teacher education faculty are being evaluated on how we are preparing our students for using tech. in curri.

MarianneH: Ain't that a hoot!! and NCLB evaluates k12 students on how well their teachers did and then evaluates our program based on where those teachers graduated from.

BJ: Marianne, do you have any way of finding out if participants in your workshop used the resources after the workshop?

Jan_NS: One place that has LTA (Low threshold applications) information for faculty of all levels is (now I have to find the URL) brb

MarianneH: I could probably ask them through an email if I have them... I have names. good idea

MarianneH: I also show 30 day trials of grabber software like ImageBlender from Tech4Learning

MarianneH: Doris, where are you and what schools do you work with?

BJ: I find that one of the biggest drawbacks to one shot workshops are that there is no little or no support after the workshop

JeffC: that's my line bj

MarianneH: True, but that was attendance by choice at a state conference not a district designed project where you could come back or build a threaded discussion follow up right here in TI (plug,plug)

Jan_NS: here is the Low Threshold Application website - lots of good ideas here and maybe a way to reach those teachers who want to integrate technology into their curriculum but are struggling to make the transitions.

<http://www.tltgroup.org/lta/home.htm>

MarianneH: I also find candidates are excited by looking at ALI projects with digital tools. they are curriculum areas and methods folks can discuss the content and pedagogy and all learn from the digital possibilities --- on any platform although this is iLife based is some areas.

Jan_NS: the preservice teachers are really not the concern that I have, Marianne.

MarianneH: Nice site, Jan. Anxious to look over and share.

MarianneH: But, Jan, they are going to take the word out there and be the next group of change agents if they get a good solid integrated background

Jan_NS: We can actually make a difference with the preservice teachers - they are captive by the university system of required courses and NCATE.

DorisM: Sorry, I'm in Venezuela and teach EFL at a local university in Maracaibo

MarianneH: Neat, Doris --- What kinds of technology do you use with your students?

Jan_NS: Guess I am impatient.

MarianneH: Doris?

DorisM: I find all that you're discussing very interesting . We are just starting. Basically some educational software programs and now we're starting an on line community. Well, to tell you the truth I'm the only one using New technologies. teachers are not ready yet.

DorisM: Sorry You guys type really fast

MarianneH: Well, we are glad you are here and hope these resources are useful for you.

DorisM: Yes, I'm learning a lot and I'm very grateful

DorisM: I've got a master degree on educational informatics, but I think I have learned more here. We're a little behind in Venezuela.

MarianneH: You need to invite us all down, virtually, to talk to your colleagues or invite them up to join us next month!!

MarianneH smiles at Doris

DorisM: Yes, I'm trying to set up a meeting with the webheads too. We need all the help we can get.

BJ: Doris, this group meets every second Thursday of the month

DorisM: I'm going to try to join you. I'm adding you to my list

DorisM: Thanks so much. If there's something that I like about you guys, is the generosity on sharing and helping other teachers

DorisM: Teachers learning through new technologies, we're students proving that new technologies are a great way to learn.

BJ: You'll find that most discussion groups are like that in Tapped In, Doris

Jan_NS: So, we have the change agents (our students) going out into a hostile (?) environment where they might not get the support to continue their efforts to integrate. tech. into curriculum.? (and that is on top of the first two years of teaching and that trial by fire!)

MarianneH: You don't want to forget to add classroom management to your list do you?

MarianneH: You know. Chicago is doing an interesting project that is kinda like what we need...

Jan_NS: please, tell us!

MarianneH: I just read about it today but we could tweak it a bit. For high risk schools they are using retired teachers as mentors to new teaches... they observe, talk after and perhaps help with kids who need extra help...

BJ: that's what I was telling you about earlier, Jan

MarianneH: Why couldn't (and there are a few of us-- I will be one after June) who are techies do that in schools?

Jan_NS: got it now, BJ!

Jan_NS: that is a great idea, Marianne.

MarianneH: Work side by side.. and work with the technology

MarianneH: BJ, did you see that written up?

BJ: it was in the ascd newsletter...smartbrief

MarianneH: It was in this AM Trib. Al Bertani used to be at National way back when I came there.

BJ: preservice teachers is going to start in the cafe in a couple minutes...did you want to head over there?

MarianneH: Better do it... See you all next month?

BJ: thanks, Marianne and Jan...lots to think about

MarianneH: Don't want to make you jealous but that will be right before I go to China

Jan_NS left the room.

DorisM: Sorry, I've got to feed my baby. it was nice meeting you. Thanks again for your kindness.

DorisM: I'll try to come back next Thursday.