Title of Session: Teaching Teachers
Moderator: Dianne Allen
Title of File: 20070301teachingteachers
Date: March 1, 2007

Room: Teaching Teachers Group

DianneA: OK Gordon, you are going to have to fill me in a bit ... what of LIT3 attracted you to come here for today's discussion?

GordonP: It is titled, "Full Circle: From Mentee to Technology Mentor"

DianneA: ahhh ... that link is posted here in this room

DianneA: and is Mary's contribution of resources

GordonP: OK I am not lost then

DianneA opens the link to the web page

DianneA begins to understand

DianneA: right we have our topic for today's discussion then ... thanks Gordon

DianneA: You have said you are 'trying to do the same for your teachers'

DianneA: which teachers? what is your role?

BJB2: Gordon, you're in the right place

GordonP: Yes, I have used Moodle as an experiment, but the community college I am with uses WebCT

DianneA nods to Gordon

GordonP: I am a director of adult basic education

DianneA nods to Gordon, it is getting clearer

GordonP: My area is quite large in west Texas

GordonP: Teachers are too far apart to meet face-to-face regularly

DianneA: Now, can we start off with some introductions .. where you are based, and your focus in teaching

GordonP: Cool, thanks Dianne

DianneA: I am a pre-service teacher in Wollongong NSW Australia with interests in professional development, and close links with some adult basic ed folk here

KatyD: I teach EFL in Jujuy Argentina

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer and I lead a math education discussion. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

DianneA: thanks Katy

DianneA: Thanks David

GordonP: I am director of adult ed in west Texas

DianneA: thanks Gordon

ChantelS: I am an elem. computer teacher and the ed. tech. rep for my building - hold tech. classes for the teachers

DianneA: thanks Chantel

DianneA: now, to see if there is common interest in our discussion topic for today ...

DianneA: Gordon has shared that he is interested in the LIT3 item linked to this room, and is trying to use this kind of process with his teachers ...

ChantelS: what is this?

DianneA: see the LINKS tab at the left hand side of your room view window ...

DianneA: sorry, take a step back ...

GordonP: yes, because of the geographic distance between many of my teachers, professional development would become easier with this method

DianneA: there is an active link to Full Circle under the Welcome box [http://www.techlearning.com/shared/printableArticle.jhtml?articleID=181503770]

DianneA: click on that to open the article that has attracted Gordon's attention

DianneA waits while everyone opens the Full Circle linked web page

DavidWe: What does LIT3 stand for?

DianneA: LIT3= Linwood Integration of technology training for teachers

DavidWe: Thanks, Dianne

DavidWe: Who is Linwood?

DianneA: it is a peer mentoring process

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: http://www.linwoodschools.org/technology/index.htm

ChantelS: so basically they set up a class online for the teachers to get prof. develop.????

KatyD: it is an interesting article

DianneA: And it would be my guess that Gordon is interested because adults teaching adults (peer mentoring) will be an important aspect of adult basic education, and by distance

KatyD: well I take advantage of the internet in order to get ideas

KatyD: because here we don't have much prof. develop.

DianneA nods to Katy

DianneA: this is one of Tapped In's objectives

DianneA: and in this discussion you can hopefully tap experience of others

KatyD: yes and it is of great help

DianneA: So Gordon ...

BJB2 . o O ("we wanted to create a professional development environment that broke down common barriers of time while offering support and collegiality" sounds just like Tapped In!)

GordonP: I was at a state convention last week with some of my teachers

DianneA: can I ask you to describe what you are trying to do, and how with your teachers?

BJB2 listens

GordonP: they will become the mentors of the others who were not able to go

DianneA nods to Gordon

GordonP: so those who have gained from breakout sessions will mentor others

DianneA: Are you seeing your program operating to 'set up a class online for the teachers to get prof dev as Chantel asked earlier?

BJB2: fewer and fewer teachers are able to afford the time or money to participate in conferences...that sounds great, Gordon

KatyD: that seems nice

GordonP: I am associated with a junior college that has WebCT and have access to use it for professional development

ChantelS: have you tried Moodle?

DavidWe: does it work, Gordon?

GordonP: However, the WebCT is daunting for many of my teachers, so some must teach others

GordonP: technology too often becomes a double edged sword

BJB2: and how is that working, Gordon?

DianneA wonders if Chantel has compared Moodle to WebCT about ease of use?

ChantelS: yes, I have used both and really like Moodle

GordonP: helping some teachers to simply get on to WebCT

GordonP: I prefer Moodle

DianneA: Chantel and Gordon, can you tell us why you prefer Moodle

DianneA wonders about difference between Moodle and Tapped In?

BJB2 prefers Tapped In

GordonP: Moodle seems to be much more intuitive

ChantelS: Moodle has a feature for active chat but I use it more for posting to forum discussions

DianneA: what might be the limitations of Moodle for interchange between teachers who are new users of technology

KatyD: Moodle and WebCT are kind of programs?

ChantelS: I am new to tapped in so I am still learning what it has to offer

GordonP: Moodle is open source instead of the license WebCT requires

DianneA: I think so Katy

BJB2 . o O (and the $$)

KatyD: thanks

GordonP: They are Course Management Systems (CMS)

DianneA nods to Gordon Dollars and cents!!!

KatyD: I see

ChantelS: moodle does not offer a calendar of classes like tapped in

BJB2: doesn't moodle have to be uploaded to a server?

ChantelS: yes

BJB2 . o O (which requires some tech skills and maintenance)

BJB2 . o O (and management)

GordonP: Unless a teacher is really sharp in IT, both will require an IT to maintain or Moodle could be outsourced to a server with the expertise

KatyD: tapped in is my link to the world

MaureenB: mine too

ChantelS: if you have somebody set moodle up for you it is a great way to hold a class for teachers and they can work on it on their own time

BJB2 smiles. Mine too, Katy

GordonP: I agree Chantel

DianneA: OK ... is our real interest with the technology, or with the aspect of encouraging peer mentoring?

DianneA doesn't mind which, is just trying to facilitate direction of discussion to meet needs

KatyD: I think here we need to encourage more peer mentoring

BJB2 . o O (is peer mentoring better/easier/more dependable in an asych system?)

GordonP: it's a little of both isn't is

KatyD: well that is my case in Jujuy with my school

ChantelS: I enjoy hearing how others use tech and what they use to teach teachers

DianneA: OK Katy ... over to you for a bit ..

DianneA: what are you doing with your teachers, please?

KatyD: no much

KatyD: we don't have internet in the school

KatyD: so imagine

DianneA: can you tell us what you might HOPE to do with teachers then?

KatyD: I try to encourage them to do prof. develop.

KatyD: any way possible

MaureenB: I have always made sure that I was doing a technology project with my class when I have a student teacher. I find they come in with tech skills but not how to use them with kids

DianneA: so were you commenting that we need to encourage more peer mentoring here at Tapped In to deliver on prof dev, perhaps?

KatyD: because here we don't even have a person responsible for that in the school

KatyD: we have to do it in our own

DianneA: Thanks Maureen .. very helpful comment and sharing

BJB2: are teachers required to have prof development, Katy?

KatyD: yes

DianneA: anyone else to share what they are doing with technology and teachers prof dev?

KatyD: but not quite strongly

KatyD: because of the limitation

ChantelS: isn't it hard to motivate the teachers to "want" to learn Technology when they can't even use it in the school?

KatyD: of course but the students need prepared teachers don't you think

BJB2: I think the primary concern with prof development is the COLLABORATION...the tech is just a means to an end

DianneA . o O (lack of technology obviously limits its use)

GordonP: learning technology is one thing, but remembering tech when one does not use it on a daily basis makes prof dev aimed at tech instead of teaching

DianneA: but without technology I wouldn't be here BJ

DianneA nods to Gordon, I see that dilemma very sharply!

KatyD: yes that is why I think places like tapped in are great because I'm able to get ideas at this time of day

BJB2 nods to Dianne. If you are not able to get teachers to be willing to share ideas, Tapped In wouldn't exist. But that collaboration can start small...

KatyD: here is 10.31 pm and I'm in my own

BJB2: and maybe through that collaboration a group will advocate the introduction of technology

KatyD: trying to learn something

BJB2 cheers for Katy...the risk taker!

BJB2 . o O (and the pioneer)

MaureenB: The key is showing teachers the possibilities

GordonP: introduction of an easier technology

BJB2 nods to Maureen. I agree

DianneA gets out the evaluation sheet for Katy for at the end of the session, to identify what she learned ...

KatyD: yes you are right we have to show the possibilities

MaureenB: every time I have a conversation about what I am doing in my class, I am asked to come in early and show someone else how I did it

ChantelS: I love to hear and see the possibilities ...why I am here!

ChantelS: I hold classes monthly after school for the teachers in my building to attend on technology. It is hard to get them there if they don't have the use for or the ability to use the programs I am teaching

KatyD: well for me internet opens a door to investigate possibilities

ChantelS: tapped in is a great way to keep on top of things

KatyD: yes even when I don't have much time when I get my schedule from Tapped in there is always something interesting I would like to hear about

DianneA wonders who is consciously using Tapped In to do what Moodle and WebCT do . ..?

BJB2 . o O (for anyone not aware of this, each room in Tapped In has a threaded discussion board)

DianneA and wonders how Gordon and Chantel see TI compared to Moodle and WebCT?

DianneA nods to Bj

BJB2: as an example, you can join this group and then post ideas about mentoring and collaboration to the discussion board at any time

BJB2 . o O (I'm not really that familiar with moodle or webCT)

GordonP: tapped In is already built, Moodle and WebCT must be assembled

DianneA: I was perhaps wondering if it would be valuable to 'show case" how TI can be used as a public, free, accessible window for prof dev and for local (or state wide) groups

ChantelS: I have not used TI very long but I use it more for the online chats and discussions in different areas. I use Moodle for a class (example: ISafe, grade class) to post to forums and display/upload assignments

SusanR nods in agreement

ChantelS: right Gordon

KatyD: wow that is great to post assignments

BJB2: something to tuck in the back of your minds...the Tapped In Festival 2007 is coming up in August...

DianneA: or am I preaching to the converted and to those who know how to use Tapped In, who know about our threaded discussions as well as our chats, our groups as well as the public calendar events?

DianneA: we can post files here

DianneA: we can share links here

DianneA: and in any individual office, and in any group room ...

KatyD: really

BJB2: we can talk in real time text chats and get transcripts

DavidWe: really!

DavidWe nods affirmatively

KatyD: I guess I need to investigate more tapped in groups

DianneA nods to Bj that is more than I ever got out of WebCT!!!

GordonP: we do need to share more links with each other

ChantelS: I need to check TI out a little more

GordonP: Same here

BJB2: if you look on the calendar you will see Tips and Tricks. Tips are tours of the main features of the Tapped In interface

DianneA: the K-12 campus manages children sharing resources and activity here Chantel

BJB2 . o O (click on the tapped in tab and then click on Calendar in the blue bar)

SusanR . o O (wonders about the focus or topic of the festival for this year)

BJB2: don't have one yet, Sue...which is why I brought the subject up now

KatyD: I enjoyed a lot the time I took part in the festival

DianneA: Tom, is this touching on what you were interested in coming here for today?

SusanR: ;puts on her thinking cap

TomHo: Yes, thanks. Am interested in tech for teaching.

ChantelS: how to I access the K-12 campus? (Not familiar with this site...sorry)

DianneA comments that Dianne, Bj, David and Sue are all helpdesk folk, and group moderators, and sometimes public session leaders

DianneA nods to Tom, thanks

BJB2: so, other than the platform (moodle/webCT/Tapped In)...

BJB2: what are the main concerns with mentoring and collaboration?

TomHo: Am I right? Does TI do what some Web 2.0 applications do...like blogs, wikis, social networking?

BJB2 hopes that is the topic Dianne was focusing on today

DavidWe: What are you interested in it doing, Tom?

BJB2: Tom, TI is the original web 2.0 site!

GordonP: LOL, I love it!

TomHo: Mostly interested in learning how to use TI at this point.

DianneA: Then to summarise where we have been and where we are up to ... we started out thinking about peer mentoring as a technique for more involvement of teachers in prof dev, got diverted to talking about different technologies, and no technology, and now we are suggesting that better knowledge of Tapped In and its resources might deal with most people here's interests

DavidWe smiles

DianneA: and to learn more about Tapped In there are the formal Tips and Tricks tours

DianneA: the advanced tour usually deals with how to use the K-12 Campus

DianneA: and especially how to join your students

DianneA: later on in July we have a special event to showcase group activities and presenters' skills and knowledge of the www as a teaching resource and tool

TomHo: Group activities?

DianneA: so in the 10 minutes left, might you consider joining this group (Teaching Teachers) and carrying on the discussion and sharing in a threaded discussion

DianneA: and helping me set a useful agenda for this group for its monthly meetings for the next three months, say?

BJB2: to join this group click on Room View at the top of the screen to get back to the welcome screen

DianneA: thanks BJ I was just going to suggest that

DianneA lets BJ take the lead

BJB2: scroll down on the welcome note to This is the group room for Teaching Teachers

BJB2: click on the green i next to the group name

BJB2: you will see the group ID page. Click on Join this group

KatyD: thanks for sharing and i'll promise i'll investigate more TI

BJB2: and voila! Joining the group allows you to post your brilliant suggestions for future discussions to the discussion board

KatyD: Bye

DavidWe waves to Katy

BJB2: The next Teaching Teachers discussion will be on April 5

DianneA: and subscribing to the discussion will keep you in touch with the other members of this group

BJB2 nods...and allow you to get reminders of upcoming discussions

TomHo: I just joined. That was easy!

KatyD left the room (signed off).

BJB2: Thanks, Dianne. Looks like a terrific group you've inspired!

DavidWe smiles

DianneA: well they inspired me

DianneA: that's peer mentoring for you!

BJB2 cheers...yeppers!

GordonP: Thanks Dianne

TomHo: Thanks, ya'll...bye

BJB2 waves bye.

DianneA: thanks to all of you,