Title of Session: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning - Cultural Lag & Resistance E-Learning
Moderator: Roger Goodson
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Room: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning Group

SherM : I have wanted to come to this session for quite awhile

SherM : Yes, I agree, Roger it is the very real archetype that was vividly exposed in the classic Animal Farm

RogerMG: Please read the discussion on 'Cultural Lag and E-learning' in this groups 'Featured Items' Found just above the chat window.

LudivinaV: as a teacher in training technology is inevitable

LudivinaV: children enjoy learning using computers

MichaelM: I'm here to better understand and address concerns that teachers or school administrators might face when using teacher wikis.

FleurW: why is it that our kids are ahead of us and we are lagging in IT?

LudivinaV: it is a difficult task

DavidWek: Children use it all the time, Fleur

DavidWek . o O (practice)

MichaelM: I think I can. I think I can. + Action = Result

MichaelM: Kids remember the little train that could

LudivinaV: change will probably take place in increments for those that are set in their ways

LudivinaV: yes

RogerMG: I just responded to Fleur . . .Keep in mind that schools are 'old' systems. They were largely developed to cope with an industrial society.

DavidWek: start all over again with a model for education, Roger?

DavidWek . o O (lot of vested interests)

JaniceSG: I'm thinking we'll have to. Why haven't we made the transition?

RogerMG: The 'links' between schools (and many universities) with their outside environments is therefore a 'weak' one.

DavidWek: why can't there be stronger links

RogerMG: Good question . . .if George is there I'll let him handle that one David.

DavidWek: We often think of education K-16, K-20

JaniceSG: Kids have trouble seeing the connection between what they learn in school and RL. Sounds like school needs an overhaul.

DavidWek nudges George

LudivinaV: without change we are not preparing students for tomorrow

JaniceSG: Or even today.

LudivinaV: right

GeorgeK: I am an management academic now, when interacting with the businesses I used to work with, I always hear: "in the real world..." I have to admit that there is a real world RW and academic world AW gap

CristalHe: certainly

JaniceSG: I taught school back in the late 70's. Did substitute teaching in the late 80's. The only thing that had really changed was the kids. Sad.

LudivinaV: agree

DavidWek thinks there are creative, forward-thinking schools, using current technology - they are few and far between

JaniceSG: Agreed. How are they funded?

LudivinaV: I've known teachers that do not know how to use a computer

CristalHe: Some schools are implementing the 1-to1 program

FleurW: wow

DavidWek knows one very close by - private school - everyone from grade 6-12 has a tablet PC

MichaelM: Here's link that enables interconnected schools and colleges. http://helpingstudents.org/JSPWiki/Wiki.jsp?page=States

JaniceSG: Ah, private.

DavidWek: takes leadership and currently, in most public schools, there is NOT much leadership

DorethiaM: teachers need to know how to use a computer, because they are not going away. It is like in the past, not everyone learned to drive, but necessity forced a lot of people to learn.

LudivinaV: right

RogerMG: There have always been schools that were learner based. . .in more recent years they were termed 'alternative schools.'

CristalHe: In Fullerton, an elementary public school teaches with each student having their own mac laptop

DavidWek: way to go Fullerton

LudivinaV: my kids are in a college prep school and in the 4th grade they start to learn how to do research papers

JaniceSG: Wow

DavidWek: but it is much more about the POSSIBILITIES of what learners get exposed to - can they see themselves going to medical school, going to law school, becoming a chef, etc?

DorethiaM: I am reading the cultural lag and resistance article. Hme interesting. Using 1:1 laptops is a large capital outlay for districts. My school purchased 2 new laptop carts and the kids have ruined the computers already

RogerMG: One can never start doing research too early in life . . .actually, children start to do it naturally even before they enter schools.

MichaelM stays quiet to listen while eating a burrito

JaniceSG: Good point, David.

RogerMG: It's called 'play.'

JaniceSG: Haha

DavidWek: do students destroy the desks and chairs, Dorethia?

DorethiaM: I remember in the 50's we had to do research the old way using encyclopedias and going to the library.   Yes they graffiti the chairs and tables if you don't have hawk eyes. Give them a pencil and they break it. No regard for the property of others.

DavidWek: so, you need to start with something more basic, right?

JaniceSG: That's a whole other cultural issue.

RogerMG: One of the things about 'lag' in schools is that the status quo is largely against examining assumptions that may be anti-learning.

JaniceSG: Are the assumptions really anti-learning or does the status quo just perceive them as such?

GeorgeK: Also, the rewards system at the top is often based on variables that are not direct contributors to learning.

CristalHe: Could you make reference to some of those assumptions?

DorethiaM: You need to know the culture of your students, in that I mean learn about their background. Don't assume they all eat dinner at a table with cloth napkins and table cloth or have the table set everyday in the best china. We have a lot of kids living in poverty in our country and their culture is different. When you go to bed hungry or are homeless that affects your learning. I have several students who are homeless.

JaniceSG is refraining from getting on a soapbox

RogerMG: Keep in mind that the status quo is largely an implicit 'rule system' which people reinforce in their daily activities.

DavidWek: yes, Dorethia, you are right

JaniceSG: So do we need to "redefine" learning?

DorethiaM: I tell my learners that their ultimate reward is getting out of poverty and becoming lifelong learners and responsible members of the community

JaniceSG: Good for you!

RogerMG: I think what needs to be done is to base schools on 'learning' . . .not on bureaucratic principles.

DorethiaM: We sometimes forget the real purpose of education.

JaniceSG: So how do we get past those bureaucratic principles?

RogerMG: That's why I keep trying to get rid of the word 'students' and supplant it with 'learners' in my thinking and talking with others.

JaniceSG: Where do we start?

RogerMG: It's not a huge tactic, but it is a tactic on an individual level.

DorethiaM: We need to base schools on the needs of the learners and the community they live in. I live in Silicon Valley where most of the jobs are hi tech. Agriculture is dying in our area. Now someone in rural America is probably interested in the jobs in their area.

JaniceSG: Even farming is high tech nowadays, though.

DorethiaM: We still need plumbers, carpenters, auto mechanics, janitors, truck drivers and other essential jobs.

DavidWek . o O (laptop repairmen, network technicians, etc.)

DavidWek . o O (new jobs, too)

GeorgeK: Many of which now rely heavily on electronics

MichaelM: Don't forget wiki gardeners :)

JaniceSG nods vigorously

SherM : yea, they just got a raise, lol

DavidWek laughs

DavidWek . o O (Wiki-weeders?)

JeffC: K-12 has never addressed needs for plumbers, etc.... the focus has been almost exclusively on college prep curricula, regardless of the needs or wants of students (or the community at large). As a result, those who aren't motivated in that direction "fall through the cracks."

SherM : lol

MichaelM: Absolutely David. Weeds grow fast when the sun shines

SherM : about the wiki weeders

JaniceSG: Maybe this is where mentors come in.

JaniceSG: Another link between schools and the outside world.

DorethiaM : You are right, but kids need an option. Just let your toilet get plugged up. I guess we could have wiki plumbers. what about a chef. that is a hands on skill. Just watch the food network.

JaniceSG: If learners know how to access information, all sorts of opportunities can open up.

SherM : Right Janice, I like to call it the "Gleaner Factor"

JaniceSG smiles

RogerMG: SO . . .what have you done to change your school today?

GeorgeK: Remember also, that 94 % of all employers are small businesses and about 51% of the US population works for small businesses-- where employees must be generalists--do we do much to prepare our youth for work in such settings?

SherM : Pick one thing, like improving the school's cable network channel; work with it; then spread out to related needs

DorethiaM : Do we look at the multiple intelligences of our learners? Most of the learners I see with learning disabilities can overcome them. If learners cannot read, they usually can't pass the testing for special ed and they are placed there when in reality they may only need remediation to succeed.

SherM : or their website

RogerMG: How are you integrating the outside world into your classrooms?

CristalHe: I would be interested in knowing how a classroom that integrates technology into the content area would look like

DorethiaM : We don't have a cable network at my school. We still have TV's on carts and just got rid of chalkboards.

SherM : encourage community collaboration in the VR and RW

GeorgeK: Use the Pygmalion idea- let the learners know that they are responsible for their learning and grade/reward based on that idea.

DavidWek: Dorethia, you are in Silicon Valley - you need to connect with some local businesses... is that possible?

FleurW: what's VR and RW please

DavidWek . o O (Virtual Reality == VR)

CristalHe: virtual reality and real world

DavidWek . o O (RW == Real World)

SherM : Now, there was a clause in the cable contracts that they were to give schools and local government local access stations

MichaelM: Virtual Reality and real world

RogerMG: Again . ..I ask . . .how can you connect your leaners with the RW outside the classroom?

DorethiaM : I integrate technology everyday. I use a projector and I am able to type as I teach. I tell my learners that school is their job and if they don't show up or perform it shows in their paycheck. I use the example of if a parent works in a restaurant and does not prepare food that is appealing and tasty the boss will eventually fire them. Well we can't fire kids from school, although I wish we could.

SherM : project based learning

JeffC: Have them get involved virtually through global project based learning... case in point: http://www.nabuur.com ...has hundreds (thousands?) of villages around the world where students could become actively involved.

DorethiaM : yes I agree project based learning

BJB2: and global problem based learning

RogerMG: Other tactics for changing the schools will have to involve connecting more and more to the RW.

MichaelM: http://www.K12.bz

RogerMG: Can you bring the community into your classroom . . ? Can you go out to the community with your learners?

SherM : and http://www.learner.org/jnorth/

CristalHe: guest speakers?

RogerMG: Can you use technology to do these things?

SherM : Yes, Yes, Yes

LudivinaV: yes

RogerMG: Is it once in a while . . .or more an omnipresent thing?

SherM : As much or as little as you want, for Journey North

DorethiaM : also teachers.tv (British)

DorethiaM : epals.com

RogerMG: Remember . . .we're talking tactics here or shortening the lag.

MichaelM : More and more schools in Virginia are making it part of the curriculum

MichaelM : credit for service learning

RogerMG: example Mike?

RogerMG: good . . .how about links with the business environment?

MichaelM : I was watching a community channel in Fairfax, VA (planning)

DorethiaM : service learning is what they did in CCC camps during the 30's and 40's

DavidWek: yes!

MichaelM : http://www.servicelearning.org/

RogerMG: Thanks Mike.

MichaelM : CCC camp?

JaniceSG: Civilian Conservation Corps

MichaelM : Thanks Janice

RogerMG: They built parks, dams, civic buildings etc.

LudivinaV: hands on

MichaelM: Maybe we can build more schools

MichaelM smiles

RogerMG: In any case . . .whatever you do to change the 'system' it must involve tactics that are thought out and are repetitive . . .it cannot be a one time shot.

SherM : Once critical component to encouraging teachers to use technology and eliminate resistance is to remember to invite everyone to the party...you know what happened to Sleeping Beauty when her parents didn't invite one of the fairy godmothers...she turned into a witch. lol

JaniceSG: There's a video game to practice that on -- School Tycoon. ;-)

LudivinaV: persistence is a must

RogerMG: True!!!

DorethiaM : A radio commentator mentioned this the other day. Our national parks are in disrepair. I know they use kids in prison to teach them how to fight forest fires in rural areas.

RogerMG: It must be PRODUCTIVE persistence.

RogerMG: There must be something different that creates new links and relationships.

LudivinaV: agree

MichaelM: Organized by many talented people.

JaniceSG: It's the old "what's in it for me" approach.

LudivinaV: build a support system

SherM : many is the operative word

DorethiaM : But do not rely on technology. When you have a power failure technology becomes obsolete. nothing replaces low tech-paper and pencil and it is cheap and be carried everywhere.

LudivinaV: of people to help

RogerMG: It always starts with one Mike. Critical mass comes later :-)

JeffC: how do we transform the "me" culture we live in?

RogerMG: That's a societal issue Jeff . . .we're just focusing on a microcosm here.

DavidWe tries typing "me" as "em"

JaniceSG: But the "me" culture is part of the resistance, no?

DorethiaM: think about what "Brave New world, the time machine, 1984 were telling us. Science fiction of yesterday is reality today. Who thought about Flash Gordon going to the moon. We all said it would never be possible.

LudivinaV: yes

JeffC: I'm just pointing out the obvious... we want GPBL, but our society seems more bent on "training students" to be "productive members of society" which means learning how to help themselves, rather than helping others. Although we're moving in the "service" direction, I don't see GPBL or any other style of curriculum shift in that direction happening any time soon.

DavidWe: coolest thing I have ever seen, Dorethia - when I was in 5th grade

LudivinaV: good point Jeff

RogerMG: OK . . .we're running on empty here . Only five minutes left. Go out there and do good things.

DavidWe smiles

LudivinaV: smiles

GeorgeK: Thanks Roger and everyone!

JaniceSG smiles

DorethiaM: well yes kids are being productive. They are producing overweight teens by eating fast food and not being able to cook. They staple their clothes instead of sewing

DavidWe hands out free chocolate

MichaelM: Great discussion. Thanks Roger. Bye everyone.

LudivinaV: bye

DorethiaM: where did time go

JaniceSG: see y'all later!

LudivinaV: too fast