Title of Session: Teaching Teachers - Mentoring
Moderator: Dianne Allen
Title of File: 20071004teachingteach
Date: October 4, 2007

Room: Teaching Teachers Group

BJB2: David, did you want to share the idea you had with Rushton?

DavidW: Do you know Rushton Hurley, Dianne - his project is called NextVista?

DavidW: Sure, Bj

DianneA nods to David

DianneA: sort of ..

BJB2: www.nextvista.org

DavidW: basically, he's interested in collecting videos that teach concepts and sharing them

DianneA nods

DavidW: We were discussing some of his project ideas and I was thinking whether there was a way to connect pre-service teachers with students to maybe contribute some videos

DianneA: what did you have in mind about 'making that connection'?

DavidW: not sure why I'm thinking about this - but I was wondering whether some of the university folks who bring their student teachers into TI might be interested

DavidW: making student-teaching a project in which the students and teacher would find a basis for collaboration with each other

DavidW . o O (this isn't very well thought through at the moment)

DianneA: for instance, might student teachers who observe a good teacher do a good concept teaching lesson then ask for permission to video a repeat to post to newvista?

DianneA: I suspect that good conceptual teaching is few and far between

DianneA: but it might also occur in preservice teaching ... be the sort of thing a professor does well

JeffC: yeah... and then try and make it happen in the classroom!

DianneA: and it might occur during pre-service education when a student prepares a lesson for a peer presentation?

DianneA: but back to you David ...

DianneA: have you some more elaboration of what might have been in your mind?

DavidW: I'm not sure if I do, Dianne

DavidW smiles

DianneA: BJ what bells did it ring for you?

BJB2: the teachers like Danika Brown, Denise Kay and Mary Thompson are already on a tight schedule...this would have to be something that could be integrated easily into their curriculum

DavidW: yes, clearly

DianneA nods to David .. that is what I tend to call my 'elusive' ideas that flash and then disappear if you try to examine too closely

DavidW: but, they've shown their interest in using Tapped In for example - that's a first step, I think

BJB2: but it sure would be cool to get Danika, Denise and Mary and the other preservice teachers together for a discussion

DavidW: well, I know how challenging it is to get up in front of a class of students for the first time

DavidW: If there was this "project" involve, that would produce something (a video, a web page, for example) would this make the initial classroom experience less intimidating?

DianneA: Ok you two, give me some more of how and why it came up in Rushton's session, and how you are now linking it with Tapped In

BJB2: Rushton was giving examples of ways in which video can be used in the classroom

DianneA while I look a bit more closely at Light Bulbs at next vista

DavidW: Rushton gave some ideas for project-based learning (how would you explain

your community to someone from another country, for example) that would lend itself to a video

DianneA: certainly a video record of a project-based learning situation (or any other teaching context) ups the ante for the presentation and the preparation ..

DianneA: what is the misery is that when good teachers are presenting good intro conceptual stuff they do it on the fly and it doesn't get captured and made available to the rest of us foot soldiers

DianneA: Once upon a time there was talk of collecting 'teaching objects' developed in the digital realm ..

DianneA: I am not sure where that has gone

DavidW: well, in a way, that's what Rushton would like to do

DavidW: There are various collections - PBS TeacherLine, for example, has videos of exemplary teaching

DianneA: certainly a video of some learning events (when good, when there is effort on video production) would produce archival resources ...

DianneA: If I was studying children's literature I love to have access to a documentary the BBC did on Beatrice Potter for instance

DianneA: in what way is Rushton's idea different from PBS then?

DavidW: certainly

DavidW: I'm not sure it is that much different - he wants to make all this available at no cost

DianneA: aaahhh

DianneA: but good production does cost

DavidW smiles

DianneA: and we have been lulled into false understandings of that by the 'idea' of 'free education'

DianneA: but I do not see much of it about!

DianneA: we have no other takers

DianneA: but I note I have enjoyed this discussion so far

DavidW: That's good

DianneA: and can I share with you two ..

DianneA: that I am just on the verge of working more intensively ..

DavidW listens

DianneA: with a group of people trying to make a breakthrough in online learning for Spanish language students

JeffC: cool

JeffC: you working with the webheads here at all?

DianneA: with material on Biblical Theology, developed here in Australia

DianneA: and been taken to Latin America usually by missionaries

JeffC: I'm not much into religion as the major form of education... but...

DianneA: this breakthrough is more a matter of how we organise volunteers from the Australian end to make the translated material available through the web

DavidW: Are these missionary groups, Dianne?

DianneA: nothing really 'breakthrough' or leading edge about the technology Jeff

JeffC: I'm sure there are tons of sites in Spanish regarding the bible.

DianneA: anyway, what it means from my end, is that knowing what is going on in ed tech, and from my interactions here at TI is likely to be VERY HELPFUL

DianneA: that wasn't what I came here for in the first place

DianneA: but someone else who knows better knew that my 'playing' here would be useful!

DavidW smiles

DianneA: or is it that when we do have knowledge that is useful we find the occasions to use it?

DavidW: I think the tools are very useful for all sorts of projects, beyond strictly

educational ones

DianneA: so team .. can I thank you all for your investment in developing my knowledge of interfaces like TI

DianneA: and extending me beyond TI to Yugma, and Learning Times ... etc

JeffC: http://www.ibs.org/bibles/spanish/index.php

DavidW: I think the thanks are mutual - it's the nature of a collaborative environment, I believe

DianneA nods to David

DianneA: Thanks Jeff ...

JeffC: and FROM MIT:

JeffC: http://www.mit.edu:8001/afs/athena.mit.edu/activity/c/csa/www/documents/Spanish/Bible.html

JeffC: maybe you should work with MIT on it.

DianneA: what is in mind from this end is ...

JeffC: their page needs revamping.

DavidW smiles

DianneA: http://www.moclam.org/

 DianneA: our next step is to revamp this web to have more interactive student spaces for tutoring, etc

DavidW: I would think some of the WebHead folks might have some good ideas for you, Dianne - especially the South American ones

DianneA: and having video lessons maybe, or video linking, and audio clips .. and .. and the list goes on

DianneA: yes, and so I need to visit them at their next session .. thanks for that reminder, David

DavidW: welcome

DianneA: OK folks, time I departed for other duties, if you don't mind

DavidW: Good luck with this project, Dianne

DianneA: Thanks David

DianneA waves bye for now ...

DavidW: Bye