Leading the Way

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Learning Showcase 2008

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The end of a year is often marked by reflection and celebration. EETT members participated in both at the 2008 Learning Showcase held on December 8 at the Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus.

This final Year 1 face-to-face workshop began with a whole-group presentation and activity facilitated by Sheryl Nussbaum-Beach. After a brief talk on the steps necessary to build momentum towards integration of 21st Century skills, Nussbaum-Beach asked individuals to identify the top barriers to full technology integration in schools. In groups, EETT members brainstormed ways to overcome each barrier. See page 2 for the top two barriers and brainstormed solutions.

The rest of the day was broken into 4 sessions; during each session, attendees were able to choose one of three concurrent presentations to attend. Presentations were given by fellow EETT participants, and were targeted to one of our three audiences: administrators, classroom teachers, or technology coordinators. In this way, the interests of all EETT members were addressed.

Since the kick-off in July of 2008, each district and non-public school's Technology Leadership Team (TLT) has been learning about and beginning to implement 21st Century skills and strategies. The TLTs, which are comprised of an administrator, technology coordinator, and 2-3 teacher-leaders, were encouraged to choose projects that were personally and professionally relevant to their needs and

Participants began the day with a whole-group activity before transitioning into break-away sessions.
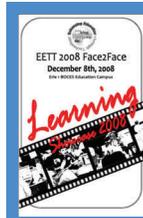
Learning Showcase 2008, Continued

student populations. Some teams chose to take a tool-specific approach (i.e. wikis or blogs), while others started looking at "big picture" topics such as digital citizenship or using Web 2.0 technologies to increase collaboration. It was the results of this time of exploration that presenters shared with fellow EETT members.

For those not able to attend, information and resources from the presentations can be found on our EETT wiki under "Year 1 F2F Workshops: Dec 8, 2008".

The evaluations from the Learning Showcase were overwhelmingly positive. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the presentations by their colleagues, and were inspired by the amazing things being done in our member districts and schools.

Missed your copy of the EETT Tech Tools Quick Guide?

Visit the EETT Ning to download the booklet!

Looking ahead, in Year Two TLTs will develop and implement a 21st Century learning experience aligned with national technology standards and New York state curriculum. TLTs will present lessons/units at the Year 2 Learning Showcase, in December of 2009. We look forward to seeing the fabulous presentations at the Year 2 Showcase, which will also serve as the grant's culminating activity.

Reflections on the Learning Showcase

The following are excerpts from anonymous evaluations completed by workshop participants.

How well did the workshop address the stated outcomes?

- I found today to be the most successful f2f workshop as we were able to see other schools utilizing what we have learned and how it can be used as best practice.
- I liked that the presentations were very hands-on, and it was helpful to see where all the districts within the grant were.
- [The] presentations extended my understanding of Web 2.0 tools introduced in earlier workshops.
- Awesome...a great opportunity to mingle with people and be able to hear the ways people are integrating technology.

As a result of what I learned, I am going to...

- Create my own wiki and work on incorporating podcasts into my classroom.
- Implement several new tools, improve my website, and create my own portfolio.
- Implement more of the Web 2.0 tools into my teaching and be available to help other teachers to learn what we have learned throughout the workshops over the past 5 months.
- Implement VoiceThread in my classroom...and create a Ning for an administrator {to} communicate with the new teachers in the district.

The "Dot" Activity: Barriers and Solutions to Technology Integration in Schools

At the Learning Showcase, Sheryl Nussbaum-Beach led participants in an activity to identify common barriers to technology integration in schools. She then asked participants to form groups and brainstorm solutions to those barriers. The following are the top two barriers identified, as well as possible solutions. For more information, visit the EETT wiki.

#1 Barrier: Time

Solution: Time During School
- Job embedded training
- Better use of development time
- Training during faculty/team meetings
- Time- expand periods/maybe alternating days of the week

Solution: Time Outside of School
- Use after school, weekends, summer time for staff development and/or planning
- Offer pay/courses for teachers

Solution: Tools to Improve Time Management
- Use technology to save time
- Base faculty meetings via Web 2.0
- Share plans via a wiki

#2 Barrier: Motivation and Buy-In

Solution: Education to Combat Fear
- Awareness sessions for teachers
- Step by step instruction manuals
- Present lesson, technology, or project that is easy & ready to go

Solution: Lead by Example
- Model the expectations
- Mentor technology teachers
- Have teachers showcase things they are doing in their classes...

Solution: Collaborate with Peers
- Day of sharing- (best practice)
- Bring teachers together regionally to share best tech integration initiatives
- Share success stories especially within a department
  Co-teaching with focus on technology

Web 2.0 Tool Spotlight:
Voice Thread

Move over, PowerPoint. VoiceThread has revolutionized the presentation tool. Now users can upload slide presentations, photos, and videos to create a VoiceThread. VoiceThreads can be viewed at the site, or can be embedded in a website, wiki, etc.

What separates VoiceThread from other presentation tools is the ability for outside users to annotate the slides. Users can type comments, record an audio comment from their computers, phone-in comments using a special code, or record video comments with a webcam. (The commenting feature can be managed and monitored by a teacher.) Comments can be read or listed to by clicking on the icon of the commenter to the left or right of the presentation.

For a nominal fee, K-12 educators and media specialists can obtain licenses for classrooms/ schools. Perks of these fee-based ed.voicethread accounts are a secure network for K-12 education only, three free downloads to view selected VoiceThread presentations offline, and the ability to create student user accounts without e-mail addresses.

The implications for education are powerful. Students can reach authentic, live audiences, comment on and critique each others' work, and collaborate asynchronously with others across the globe.

Educational Voice Thread Examples

- Lancaster Students' VoiceThreads on Regions of NY
- VoiceThreads for Education
- Washington DC Experiences
- 4th Grade Art
- Finding Patterns (Primary)
- ESL VoiceThread Example

Suggested Reading and Resources from the Learning Showcase

The following links are active. Click on the name of the resource to open the page on your internet browser.

Session 1

Integrating Technology into Professional Development, *Carolyn Kick/WS CSD*
- Ning
- Video: 3 Steps for 21st Century Learning

School Websites from Web 1.0 to Web 2.0, *Queen of Heaven School*
- Bud the Teacher Wiki
- Responsible Blogging Lesson Plan

Project Based Learning in the Science Classroom, *Amy Balling/Lancaster*
- Presentation Page
- Amy Balling's Website

Session 2

Lesson Planning with Castle Learning and Discovery Streaming, *Monica Burgio-Daigler/Erie 1 BOCES*
- Presentation Resources

Digital Citizenship: Starting the Conversation, *Heidi Chaves/Lancaster*
- LCSD Digital Citizenship Wiki

Wonderful Wikis: A Collaborative Classroom at Work, *Melinda DeBernardo & Jill Hopcia/Sweet Home*
- Jill Hopcia's Wiki
- Glendale Elementary's Enrichment Program Wiki

Session 3

Integrating Technology in Non-Public School Settings, *Christian Central Academy*
- Christian Central Academy's wiki page

Developing a Tech Plan Using Web-Based Management Tools, *Tom Nemmer/Hamburg*
- Hamburg Tech Plan Wiki

On-line Learning Portfolios, *Nancy Cook & Lee Ferenc/ Williamsville CSD*
- Nancy Cook's Presentation Page
- Lee Ferenc's Presentation Page

Session 4

Using Wikis to Promote Administrative Collaboration *WSCSD Elementary Principals*
- Presentation Page

Podcasting 101, *Grand Island Central School District*
- Shawn Wheeler's Site
- Podcast for Teachers
- iPod Educators' Ning
- Audacity

Making an Impression… using VoiceThread, *Mary Beth Zacher-Bucho/Alden*
- Voice Thread

As teacher leaders and administrators concerned with increasing the use of technology in education, we are more likely to readily accept and push the use of new technologies. We must also lead other educators to the understanding that technology can — and should — enhance sound educational practice.

The EETT coordinators have created several workshops to illustrate the link between technology and best practice, with the goal of training EETT members to turnkey the workshops. The workshop titled Enhancing Differentiated Instruction Through Technology (EDITT) was held on December 1, 2008 at the Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus. Approximately 30 administrators and teacher leaders were introduced to internet-based and Web 2.0 tools that will enhance differentiated instruction, as well as provided with strategies and resources to turnkey the training to their district or school staff.

Differentiated Instruction is an accepted best practice with proven results for improving student achievement. Workshop attendees learned how technology offers educators the means to facilitate the implementation of DI into heterogeneous classrooms. They received a train-the-trainer manual that included graphic organizers, checklists, and resources.

The day-long workshop was broken into three modules: Assessment; Differentiating Content, Process, and Product; and Structuring and Managing DI in the Classroom. Hands-on activities were built into each module, which gave participants time to use the technologies presented.

As a further support feature a group was started in our EETT Ning during the workshop to hold focused discussions on DI and to share resources. EETT participants may join the group by clicking on the group icon in the Ning.

If your district or school is interested in on-site training on Enhancing DI through Technology, contact Shannon Logan or Jenny Conklin at 821-7313.

Differentiating Products Using Technology

Photostory	Digital Story	Annotated Map
Cartoon	Podcast	Create a Book
Data Collection	Timeline	Presentation

NYSCATE 2008: Discovering your Digital Destination

Hundreds of educators from across the state gathered in Rochester in November for NYSCATE's annual convention. Over the span of three days, attendees viewed over 100 presentations, participated in 30 hands-on sessions, roamed the exhibition floor, "played" at the Global Connections playground, and recorded the event on free digital cameras.

Attendees were able to choose from concurrent presentations over nine different sessions. The presentation topics were varied, from specific tools (Web 2.0 tools, SMART boards), to more global concepts, such as 21st Century classrooms, active learning, building critical thinking skills, and effective professional development.

Keynote presentations were given by acclaimed experts David Jakes, Marc Prensky, Don Knezek (CEO of ISTE), and Gary Stager.

The 2008 Annual NYSCATE Convention was held on November 23-25, 2008, at the Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, NY. For information on the conference, visit the NYSCATE website or search http://Delicious.com under the tag "NYSCATE08".

Akron teacher Sandy Keppel did an excellent presentation on the ways in which she uses blogs, wikis, podcasting, social networking, and distance learning in her middle school classroom. Visit her website for ideas: www.akronschools.org/keppel.

NYSCATE (New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education), an affiliate of ISTE, is a non-profit organization whose membership is comprised of over 2,000 educators dedicated to improving education through the use of technology. For more information on the organization, upcoming conferences, or how to become a member, visit their website at www.nyscate.org