

## **SITE 2005 Proposal for Roundtable Session**

Title: Technology Integration: Challenging False Assumptions  
Author 1: Dr. Ross Perkins  
Author 2: Dr. Ken Potter  
Author 3: Dr. John Burton  
Author 4: Dr. Barbara Lockee  
Affiliation: Virginia Tech

### **Overview**

An important emphasis of current literature in technology integration focuses on the benefits of technology in regard to productivity and professional practice in the classroom and in school offices. There is an assumption, however, that increases can only occur if teachers and administrators are highly trained in technology skills. In Virginia Tech's Department of Teaching & Learning, through the PT3 project, we have adopted an "Advanced Technology Response Team" approach. This approach lessens the training burden on the end-users but allows them to benefit from technology integration. The ATRT members are highly skilled in many areas of instructional technology and can assist others who may not have such specific knowledge or time to commit to gaining such knowledge.

This roundtable suggests an alternative approach to commonly held practices and beliefs in educational technology implementation, emphasizing on a need for leadership to develop a vision based on teacher needs rather than one focused on technology. Additionally, we will use the opportunity for interaction to discuss how these myths may affect other such technology integration initiatives and gather input as to how such challenges were addressed.

### **Learning Objectives**

Participants will:

1. Recognize the "myths" of technology implementation and how persistence of such beliefs can unduly burden technology personnel and resources.
2. Discuss the impact that a change in focus might have on current technology integration practices and its ramifications on classroom learning and administrative practices.
3. State four approaches to technology integration that decrease the learning burden on teachers and administrators

4. Suggest additional strategies or techniques that can further increase technology integration in schools without increasing the demand on time or training resources.

## **Outline**

1. Discuss myths of technology implementation and their impact on current practice

We will discuss our identified technology integration myths related to: 1)Technology Awareness; 2)Technology Use; 3)Time Requirements; and 4)Large Scale Training, as experienced through the implementation of our Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology project. We will also discuss how the persistence of such beliefs can unduly burden technology personnel and resources. We have encountered challenges in our efforts to facilitate technology integration into pre-service educational experiences due to the identified false assumptions. For example, related to technology awareness, we experienced the perception that teachers need continuous training to maintain high-level awareness of technological solutions to instructional problems. In reality, a more effective and efficient approach is to have teachers focus on describing their instructional needs and having support staff identify technological solutions that would most appropriately meet their needs. The four "myths" will be fully described during the roundtable session and responses from attendees will be encouraged to either support or challenge these findings.

2. Discuss four approaches to technology integration

Based on the outcomes of our PT3 project, we will discuss approaches that decrease the learning burden on teachers and administrators as an alternative approach to technology integration. The first technique focuses on educational needs rather than technological solutions. The second relies on the use of an Advanced Technology Response Team as a way to "know" technology without demanding that everyone is trained to the same level. The third approach, which also implements the response team, demonstrates that technology integration does not necessarily require a substantial investment of time. Finally, we will describe an approach to sustainable technology training that works at a small scale but yields more productive results. It is our hope that roundtable participants will provide feedback about our strategies and share any similar issues that they have encountered in their efforts to integrate technology in their educational settings.

3. Discuss additional strategies

We will ask round table participants for suggestions related to techniques that can further increase technology integration in schools without increasing the demand on teacher time or training resources. We will examine these suggestions as a group of professional educators, creating opportunities for colleagues to interact and disseminate best practices related to technology integration.