Integrating Technology in the Pre-service College Classroom and Beyond by Developing Exit “e-portfolios”

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Abstract: The PT3 project, “Bridging the Digital Divide in South Florida” has proposed a module comparing outcomes of pre-service teachers that produce electronic portfolios to outcomes of pre-service teachers using traditional paper portfolios. Also, pre-service students will be evaluated on the degree and quality of technology integration into the field experience and internship experiences in the K-12 classroom. But first, the PT3 project will incorporate in one existing pre-service educational technology course; the creation and implementation of an e-portfolio project. This project will be implemented by using collaborative initiatives, online communities, and student initiated ideas incorporated within a pre-service Introduction to Computers in Education EME 2040 course.

History of the Project

In 1996, the Florida Department of Education introduced the Educator Accomplished Practices (EAP). These EAP standards “recognize the relationship between a strong foundation of content and pedagogical knowledge and the ability to apply this knowledge in practice while exhibiting professional behaviors.” To demonstrate these standards, many institutions now have pre-service students develop, and present, in a formal review, an exit portfolio. An exit portfolio helps these pre-service students organize and show accomplished practice evidence. At Florida Gulf Coast University, for the first time, in one course called Introduction to Computers in Education, EME 2040, during the Spring 2002 Semester, pre-service students will be developing and implementing an electronic portfolio. An “electronic” exit portfolio (e-portfolio) hopes to take the student learning process a step further by integrating appropriate technology throughout the pre-service experience and beyond.
Purpose

This presentation will be a collaborative session examining the challenges and successes of the several components in integrating an e-portfolio project in an existing pre-service college course.

On-Line Presence

Information about our project may be viewed at: http://garnet.fgcu.edu. To view these discussions, one may register for the PT3 Fall and/or spring courses and create an identity. Once this is done, posting will be enabled for the viewer. Our website also contains information that documents our workshop activities with our partners. Our website is located at: http://coe.fgcu.edu/PT3

Interdisciplinary Partnerships

We have fostered relationships among other departments by recruiting professors from other disciplines to be participants on the subject area teams. We began with professors from Communication, Guidance and Counseling, Math, Science, and English. Several of the professors we originally recruited have resigned due to the differences between their professional fields and teacher education at the elementary level. We have, however, retained a few professors from other departments.

Professors Collaborate with Pre-Service Teachers

We have addressed the need for collaboration with K-12 teachers by placing eighteen K-6 teachers from five elementary schools on the subject area teams. This has been an essential part of our project as professors and pre-service teachers relate with classroom teachers on a regular basis. Four of these K-12 teachers serve as team leaders.

The Foundation Standards in the Curriculum Guidelines for Teacher Preparation Programs in Computer/Technology Literacy developed by International Society for Technology in Education for NCATE will be included within the e-portfolio project.

The completed e-portfolios will be hosted on the student.fgcu.edu domain for the students to use during their studies and for one year or so after they graduate. It is the authors hope to host all of the students’ e-portfolios on the College of Education domain when it is feasible to do so. This would showcase our students Education Technology Proficiency. The domain for this database of student e-portfolios would be located at www.coe.fgcu.edu. Selected e-portfolios in progress hope to be shown at this session.