The NC Catalyst/SAS inSchool™ Partnership: Universities, Public Schools, and Business Working Together to Help Faculty and Cooperating Teachers Integrate Technology in Teacher Education

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Abstract:

In 2000, the University of North Carolina system received a Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology (PT3) grant from the US Department of Education. The statewide grant, titled NC Catalyst, is aimed at strengthening North Carolina’s administrative, human, and technical infrastructure to ensure that all teacher education candidates are ready, willing, and able to use technology to enhance teaching and learning when they graduate from our 15 public teacher education programs.

A major focus of NC Catalyst is helping university faculty and cooperating teachers develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions they need to integrate technology into their teacher education programs and field experiences. To accomplish this goal, each of the teacher education programs in the University of North Carolina system provide professional development opportunities for their faculty and cooperating teachers.

SAS inSchool has partnered with NC Catalyst in this important undertaking. As part of the partnership, SAS inSchool provides each teacher education program in the University of North Carolina system with an annual license to all of its curriculum software for secondary students as well as to Curriculum Pathways™, a curriculum resource for secondary teachers that provides quick and easy access to high quality, standards-based lesson plans, teaching ideas, and web resources.

Through the NC Catalyst/SAS inSchool partnership, we are helping university faculty and cooperating teachers meet the challenge of preparing the next generation of secondary teachers for our state’s public schools. In this panel presentation, we will present NC Catalyst from four perspectives: that of the system-level grant coordinator, university faculty member, a cooperating teacher, and a business partner.

We will:

− provide an overview of NC Catalyst professional development efforts and related evaluation data to-date
− present an overview of SAS inSchool products and describe our unique, problem-based, collaborative approach to professional development
− share examples of how university faculty and cooperating teachers are using SAS inSchool products in teacher education programs and field experiences
− present and discuss the lessons we’ve learned about how universities, public schools, and business can work together to achieve mutually beneficial goals