“Appy Hour” – Exploring New Apps and Techniques using iPads in Pk-12 and Teacher Education

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Abstract: iPads are being used in a variety of education contexts; however, there have been limited research studies conducted. Thus, there is an opportunity for a marriage between iPad use in education and research. Based on the outcomes from a research study presented at SITE 2013, this best practices presentation will provide an opportunity for participants to explore new apps and share integration strategies.

Best Practices

In 2013, the researchers presented their paper “Using iPads to Teach Undergraduates Common Core State Standards (ELA): A Digital Marriage” at the 2013 SITE Conference. The study offered implications for professional development on iPad training and implementation, including ways to offer iPad exploration for teachers or teacher candidates on a consistent basis.

Out of this research, the researchers developed “Appy Hour” as a way to explore new apps and share iPad techniques in a peer-driven community of technology learners. Additionally, the researchers found that offering activities that require structured research of apps using an app evaluation make implementation more successful and meaningful. Researchers found that training time was best spent when iPad training was reserved for its use in iPad integration techniques for small group and large group instructional activities.

This best practices session will allow the researchers to share with participants how to effectively integrate “Appy Hour” into their schools and teacher education programs. New apps will be explored in addition to techniques for seamlessly integrating iPad strategies into instruction at the early childhood, elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels. Additionally, participants will be able to share their best practices.