Abstract:
The TECH Share Project at Northern Arizona University (NAU), funded through the Navajo Education Technology Consortium's Star Schools Grant, is in its fifth year of producing technology driven, standards-based, culturally relevant curriculum. The culturally relevant curriculum modules are interactive, multimedia-rich, web pages that are delivered to teachers and students via NETtrain. NETtrain serves as the online portal for the modules and other technology related resources for teachers. The modules are linked to four sets of standards: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Dine cultural standards. NETtrain offers multimedia lessons in ten content areas: Dine language, arts, language arts, health & physical, technology, languages, career & workplace, mathematics, social studies, and science. Lessons vary in length and grade level (K-12). They can be used for individual learning and group activities.

Full Description:
The TECH Share Project at Northern Arizona University (NAU), funded through the Navajo Education Technology Consortium's Star Schools Grant, is in its fifth year of producing technology driven, standards-based, culturally relevant curriculum. The project primarily serves 22 K-12 school districts on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. NAU is one of six partners participating in the project including Arizona State University, Dine College, National Indian Telecommunications Institute, New Mexico State University, and the University of New Mexico. One of the primary goals of the TECH Share Project at NAU is assisting the bicultural student to become successful in the dominant society while also maintaining and empowering them with regard to their traditional upbringing. Education is used to help preserve, rather than replace, Native American tradition. Consequently, the curriculum helps the student obtain power and self-identity that ultimately encourages lifelong learning and gives the student true purpose in life.

The culturally relevant curriculum modules are interactive, multimedia-rich, web pages that are delivered to teachers and students via NETtrain. NETtrain serves as the online portal for the modules and other technology related resources for teachers. The portal provides a database search engine to assist teachers with finding modules linked to a particular state standard or by key word. The modules are linked to four sets of standards: Arizona State, New Mexico State, Utah State, and Dine cultural standards. NETtrain offers multimedia lessons in ten content areas: Dine Language, Arts, Language arts, Health & Physical, Technology, Languages, Career & Workplace, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science. Lessons vary in length and grade level. They can be used for individual learning and group activities.

In addition, the NETtrain portal has many other tools for teachers. A database of media elements (asset management database) including images, audio, video, and animations is available that teachers can use royalty free to produce their own materials for classroom use. A variety of cultural integration tools can be found in the Cultural Resources area. You’ll find presentations on Navajo culture and history, and about teaching on the Navajo Reservation. There are also tutorials on computer use and software applications.

Another feature of the NETtrain system is the Online Lesson Evaluation Rubric. This rubric was designed by the external evaluator for the project to gather feedback on individual lessons. The rubric looks at
instructional design and functionality of the lessons. If you want to have students complete evaluations for an assignment in your class the evaluators can provide you with verification of completion.

This session proposes to showcase the diverse modules created by the partners in the project and to provide an overview of how to access the modules including technical and plug-in requirements. Both the modules and the asset management database will be demonstrated. The NETtrain address is http://nettrain.unm.edu and the modules can be viewed through Lessons menu tab.