Sixteen Interdisciplinary NETS Technology Units Available On-Line

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Abstract

Are you looking for quality curriculum materials that address the NETS standards? We have a place where you can find them, for free! Sixteen university professors worked with pre-service teachers in their college classes to write interdisciplinary units that address the NETS Standards for Students and Teachers. These units were written for inclusion on BEACON, a peer reviewed lesson and unit plan resource website that also addresses the Sunshine State Standards in Florida, www.beaconlc.org. The units were field tested by in-service teachers in South Florida and then revised for publication on the web.

The technology-enhanced units were written in collaboration with 16 in-service Teachers in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Collier Counties in South Florida. The in-service teachers provided the university professors with curriculum ideas. They also field-tested the units with their elementary school students plus the assistance from the pre-service teachers. Every national and state standard that is addressed in the unit plans is also assessed with accompanying rubrics. All the materials needed for the units can be downloaded from the Beacon website.

The CAI model, which includes Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction, was used to create the unit plans. The writers selected the national and state curriculum and technology standards they planned to address. Next, they developed diagnostic and summative assessments that they would use; first to diagnose instructional need and then to demonstrate student mastery. The final step was to write the instructional procedures. In order to be published on the Beacon website, they went through an outside peer review process conducted by Beacon.

At this session, the participants will be able to pre-view some of the units developed. They will also be able to find curriculum resources based on subject area and grade level needs. They will learn how to search for particular resources on the Beacon database and download materials for classroom use.
After approval by Beacon, technology experts in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties then evaluated the mini-units. Commendable mini-units were selected for integration of technology according to the National Educational Technology Standards.

The pre-service teachers in two St. Thomas University courses, Social Studies in the Elementary School and Children’s Literature, developed mini-units to fit the curriculum of fifth graders at Welleby Elementary in Sunrise, Florida. The Welleby curriculum topic was Native Americans. The university professor visited Welleby to meet the fifth graders and make preliminary plans with the fifth grade teacher, Ms. Sandra Pierce. With this information, the professor helped the pre-service teachers develop their mini-units over a period of eight weeks. The Welleby schoolteacher gave an overview on Native Americans to the fifth graders, preparing them for the final meeting between the pre-service teachers and the fifth graders. This meeting lasted from 9AM until 12 PM. Each pre-service teacher met with a small group of the pre-determined fifth graders.

Outline:
1. Introduction: Description of the Technology Unit Writing Project
2. The Process:
   a. Discussion of the methods of technology integration used for the units.
   b. The peer review process in unit plan writing; timelines and criteria.
   c. The field-testing process: how the units benefited from the students and teachers who tried them.
3. The Product:
   a. Why reinvent the wheel? Ease of replication, downloadable resources.
   b. Participant interaction/ participant directed search for curriculum technology resources.
   c. How to find units by state and national standards.
   d. How to find units by keywords.
   e. How to find units by grade level.

NETS: The 16 units showcased in this session have all been written to align with the National Educational Standards for Teachers and the National Educational Technology Standards for Students.

BEACON website: www.beaconlc.org

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