Abstract: A variety of Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology Today grant projects will be shared to demonstrate appropriate use of technology tools to enhance student learning in P-8 and teacher education settings. Integration of technology in the districts’ elementary curricula as well as the pre-service education program and the impact of additional resources in school-university partnerships will be shared. Ways that administrators can support innovation with technology will also be discussed.

Projects that Integrate Technology in the Elementary Curricula and Support University-School Partnerships

April Flood, Instructor
Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education
Eastern Illinois University
United States, cfadf@eiu.edu

Denise Reid, Instructor
Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education
Eastern Illinois University
United States, cfder@eiu.edu

Merribeth D. Bruning, Ed.D, Chair
Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education
Eastern Illinois University
United States, cfmdb@eiu.edu

The Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education has partnerships with schools in the surrounding areas. Many of the schools face limited resources. When PT3 grant money became available, faculty and teachers from the community began collaborating to develop creative and effective use of technology for building learning communities for teacher education and P-8 students. The university-community collaboration has provided enriched environments for learning for teacher education candidates and children.

The poster/demonstration session will highlight several of the projects that have been developed that integrate technology and the elementary curricula. Some of the projects to be shared include Project WOW, a technology enhanced approach to social studies that integrates other subject areas using Kid Pix, HyperStudio, and Web design; Clifford and Literacy, a program that uses technology to teach concepts by sending Clifford on vacation and prompting writing assignments using Storybook Weaver; Writing and Publishing a Book About Me, a language experience approach to literacy enhanced with technology that uses Kidspiration in the prewriting process; Interactive Storybooks, making literacy more accessible to students and increasing the diversity of students in rural communities with the integration of Spanish; RACE, Reading Across the County Experience, a project that provided the opportunity for children in one community to e-mail their keypals in another community about the books they were reading; and QuizKids, using SideKeys and Quizworks 6 to motivate students to become active learners through the creation of challenging quizzes on any subject in the elementary curriculum. These projects have placed Eastern Illinois University preservice teachers into classrooms throughout the community that are striving to integrate technology into their curriculums. They are valuable for the teacher education students as they give opportunities for positive interaction with children in participation classes as well as application of technology tools in teaching situations. The resources of technology tools provide additional ways to reach diverse learners. The use of technology as a motivation tool, as well as another way to meet multiple learning styles are also items for discussion.

Included in the presentation are ways that teacher education administrators and public school administrators can support university-school partnerships and innovation using technology tools. Assessment components of projects for the effective use of technology to enhance learning will be shared. The creation of positive university-school
partnerships as an integral factor in working with grant projects will also be discussed. The importance of collaborative work to provide additional resources and experiences for the P-8 and teacher education students will be highlighted as a positive result of the use of PT3 funds.

References:


