PROPOSAL FOR E-LEARN 2006

Sustaining the Accountability System:
Progress, Challenges and Changing Dynamics in a Teacher Education Unit

In the context of teacher accreditation, accountability mechanisms are operationalized through quality control systems and improvement machineries that generate evidence and demonstrate effectiveness. The development, sustenance and continual enhancement of such “system” have become some of the most challenging aspects of the accreditation process, as they involve changes in culture, policy and practice at the individual, collective and material levels. Drawing upon an institution’s experience in developing and sustaining the web-based Education Accountability System (EAS), the presenter will share the progress, challenges, and changing dynamics in the education unit; discuss processes of moving from experimentation to institutionalization; elicit discussion on critical factors for sustenance and enhancement; and encourage promising practices of teacher educators serving as change agents in the era of accountability.

The EAS is an integrated learning, assessment, management and reporting system developed and implemented by the presenter and the Department of Education to enhance community-wide teaching, learning and collaboration, to help address national and state accreditation mandates, and to ensure continual improvements. The discussion of the EAS will be provided in the rich context of the teacher education unit and its’ professional community with the following areas of focus: (1) capacity and linkage building as conceptual framework in the design of the EAS; (2) structure of the EAS with technical specifications on major components of the Accountability Center, Performance Assessment, and ePortFolio; (3) progress, challenges, and changing dynamics in organizational culture and infrastructure; in program, curriculum and assessment; and in resources, support and system renewal; and (4) summarization of critical factors in sustaining the EAS, and its implications for teacher education programs that strive for sustenance and enhancement in an era of accountability.