Title: Urban Student’s Perception on Online Learning versus Traditional Learning

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Giving the increasing demands of the 21st century, public educators are challenged with providing today’s students with innovative methods of instruction. In the spring of 2008, Forest Park Academy in Roanoke, Virginia was created to address the city’s high dropout rate. This school was designed to captivate the minds of potential dropouts by providing a non-traditional, technologically-advanced learning environment. Students attending Forest Park Academy are provided with the opportunity to work independently at an accelerated pace because of computer-based instruction while still benefiting from the support of highly qualified classroom teachers. Because of this unique concept Forest Park Academy has achieved great success, graduating over 500 at-risk students since the program began four years ago.

Limited research exist examining K-12 student’s perceptions of online learning versus traditional learning. A pilot student was conducted in November 2012 with high school seniors attending Forest Park Academy. Students were asked to complete a survey about online and traditional learning. All of the student participants had experienced an online and traditional course during their high school career. This presentation will provide the results of this study and enable educators to build upon best practices and the lessons learned from implementing a technologically-advanced program for today’s high school students.