Creating and Using Virtual Learning Stations in the K to 12 Classroom
Poster Session Proposal for SITE 2013

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The purpose of this poster session is to provide teachers with new ideas to integrate technologies that students use in their everyday life. The ability of mobile devices to offer anywhere, anytime connectivity to the Internet has opened up a whole new vision for the future of learning and teaching. This session enables teachers to think about mobile devices, BYOD, virtual and augmented reality and how they blend together in the classroom.

Digital content is accessed by scanning QR codes, using the mobile devices’ camera for image recognition, or using geolocation to activate the device. The learning activity can be as minimal as linking to a web site with information or as complex as implementing an augmented reality experience. The use of virtual learning stations takes the student to a higher learning level than if they were sitting stationary at their desk looking at a whiteboard or sitting in a classroom computer lab.

While engaged in this activity, students are not stationary for long periods of time. They are moving around from station to station. Active learning is taking place.

Learning stations can not only have digital content but can also host physical content. In cases where equipment and supplies are cost prohibitive, virtual learning stations enable students and teachers to implement activities such as dissections, simulations, art projects, lab experiments, and mini virtual field trips.

Virtual learning stations can also be cost effective because the amount of technology devices required is minimal. Virtual learning stations do not require computers, a projection system, or whiteboards. In cases where BYOD programs are implemented, students may use their own devices.

While using virtual learning stations, students are less distracted by other students and other technologies since they are interacting with their own devices.

This poster session will focus on the use, design, and implementation of virtual learning stations. Examples of projects created by preservice teachers in a multimedia course at Bloomsburg University will be demonstrated. An extensive web site will be developed with resources and examples. Each attendee will receive a handout.