If we want teachers to create exciting and engaging learning contexts which respects all students’ right to learn, the best way to do this might just be to create exciting and engaging learning contexts for teachers that respects their ability to shape education. (Riel, 2001.)

One major finding of the 1998 Teaching, Learning, and Computing Study (Becker & Riel, 2000) was that the role of the student as a learner in the classroom mirrored the role of the teacher in the larger educational community. Students in classes taught by teachers who were engaged in a range of professional development endeavors are asked to think deeply about issues, generate their own ideas, work collaboratively on projects, share and evaluate their own work in a public forum, and use technology to support these types of activities. This finding points to the need to create learning experiences for educators that reflect the learning environment we want for our children.

Produced by the Research Center for Educational Technology at Kent State University, the CD-ROM, TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION: THE RESEARCH ON WHERE WE HAVE BEEN • A VISION OF WHERE WE ARE GOING, is designed for university faculty working with preservice educators, staff developers in a preK-12 environment, and practicing teachers engaged in study groups. The purpose of this session is to demonstrate the use of an interactive CD-ROM that was developed to actively engage teachers in reflective dialogue regarding best practice research, their teaching philosophies, and instructional practices.

Session participants will have the opportunity to navigate the CD-ROM as facilitators guide them through the layers of information. Facilitators will also report on the usage of the CD-ROM since its release in August 2001 and feedback that has been received from educators both at the university and K-12 level. Some of the primary users of the CD at this time are teaching faculty that are involved in PT3 initiatives.

The content of the CD-ROM illustrates how technology is changing our lives and our schools. A video message by Dr. Thomas Carroll, former Director of the Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers for Technology program, addresses the issue of teachers and their changing role in the classroom. Dr. Linda Roberts, former Director of the Office of Educational Technology for the United States Department of Education, speaks to the importance of research in educational technology.

The CD takes an in-depth look at current research findings on the impact of technology on teaching and learning. Dr. Henry J. Becker & Dr. Margaret Riel (University of California at Irvine), who conducted the research on the Teaching, Learning, and Computing study, talk about the significant findings of this work. Dr. Rob Tierney (University of British
Columbia), one of the researchers in the *Apple Classroom of Tomorrow* (ACOT) project, shares results from his ACOT research.

The CD also provides real examples of how these important research results translate into the classroom. A series of guided discussion questions and related staff development activities can be accessed during the course of the CD. These can be used as a stimulus to engage educators in deep conversations about the implications that educational technology has for a real classroom. Content of the CD crosses all disciplines.

The creators of the CD strongly suggest that it be used in a discussion group setting where education professionals and/or teacher education students collaboratively study some current research and issues surrounding technology and its impact on teaching and learning. Viewers are challenged to call on their collective wisdom as practitioners to examine the value and potential of emerging technologies on teaching and learning.

The Research Center for Educational Technology (RCET) was founded in 1999 to provide a collegial network for university researchers and preK-16 educators committed to studying the impact of technology on teaching and learning.

**References**


Research Center for Educational Technology. (2001). Technology and education: The research on where we have been - A vision of where we are going [Computer software]. Kent, OH: Kent State University.