IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-PORTFOLIO

Grant Abstract

Preparing Technologically Skilled Novice Teachers
A University-Wide P-12 Collaborative

Eastern Kentucky University plays a critical role in reducing the digital divide that exists in its Appalachian service region. The importance of this role is magnified by the fact that EKU is the largest preparer of teachers in the Commonwealth and because our graduates serve one of the most educationally and economically depressed regions in the nation. Through PT3, EKU can substantially improve the preparation of teachers: enabling them to be more adept at applying technology to learning strategies which will, in turn, enhance student performance. Our project has three major goals: (1) creating “clusters” of both Education and Arts and Sciences faculty, as well as pre- and in-service teachers, to work together to integrate content, pedagogy and technology through the redesign of technology-rich general education and educational foundations courses for future teachers; (2) establishing “service units” to coordinate and disseminate outcomes; and (3) creating an electronic/multimedia portfolio assessment system through which future teachers will document their proficiencies and amass strategies to enhance their future teaching.

Electronic Portfolio Rationale

The Eastern Kentucky University PT3 2000 implementation grant is a very unique, collaborative effort among the College of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, and P-12 partners with a focus on transforming the education of future teachers through the infusion of technology throughout the core curriculum.

As the largest preparer of teachers and educational professionals in the Commonwealth, our emphasis on teacher education is a campus-wide priority through which content areas, pedagogy, and instructional technologies are fully integrated.

Our cluster teams are working very hard to develop a core curriculum that continues to challenge our students through academic rigor while exposing them to cutting-edge technology. We are very excited about the positive impact the results of this grant will have on the preparation of our future teachers. As an example of this collaboration, two College of Education faculty members who were instrumental in the development of Eastern Kentucky University’s original education portfolio, one College of Arts and Science biology professor, one P-12 teacher, the coordinator of educational technology and his graduate assistant formed the portfolio cluster. The charge of the “cluster” was to focus on reconfiguring the portfolio to an electronic format. The cluster worked for one year to develop a template for the electronic-portfolio (e-portfolio).

The e-portfolio is required of all Eastern Kentucky University teacher education majors and is based on the Kentucky New Teacher Standards. The e-portfolio provides an opportunity for students to showcase their course work and demonstrate their competence in implementing technology.

It is the intent of the presentation to share the framework for developing the e-portfolio and the implementation of its use in the Educational Foundations Class (EDF 203). Review of the objectives for the portfolio and the rationale for developing a template will be discussed.
Successes and pitfalls of implementing the e-portfolio in eight EDF 203 classes taught by seven different instructors will be discussed.

Objectives for the presentation are to: (a) provide overview of the PT3 grant’s objectives, (b) review objectives for the e-portfolio, (c) provide a framework for implementing the e-portfolio with approximately two-hundred and fifty students enrolled in an educational foundations class, (d) share observations of successfully implemented strategies and some failures, and (e) share reflections of the process of integrating the technology.