AACE 2013 Conference Submission

Title: The Power of Collaboration: Second Life Faculty Members and Support Personnel Share Facilities, Ideas, and Research

Best Practices Session Proposal

Major Topics: Implementation Examples & Issues (#1) and Tools & Systems (#2)

Abstract:
Steeped in the Constructivist Theory, the Second Life environment offers prospects for new types of collaborative and participative teaching, learning, and research. Two faculty members and a support person work together to share teaching strategies, learning opportunities for students and for themselves, and research projects while sharing a unique space in the Second Life environment. Working with a mixture of several different content areas and courses, the faculty members deliver instruction and lead learning for students in the same Second Life space, designed and maintained by Second Life campus experts. Listening to the "story" of this collaborative work will stir ideas among participants who listen to the multiple examples of this powerful and ongoing work. Presenters will share their experiences and provide suggestions for novices in the Second Life environment, all the while demonstrating the use of the designated Second Life space using their individual avatars.

Comments:
Working within the Second Life environment is something that needs to be experienced firsthand, not just discussed. The presenters plan to demonstrate Second Life to participants, using hand-held devices if necessary or laptop computers and projection systems if possible. The collaborative nature of this project is the essential message, but actually seeing how Second Life can work for higher education faculty and students will be a powerful experience for participants.

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