Breaking Down the Walls in Teacher Education Programs

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Abstract: Is your teacher preparation “program” really a team of education faculty, content faculty, and K-12 teachers? These groups face the same doubts, promises, and problems related to technology integration. Rather than a frontal assault on teaching technology usage to them, “Project Jericho: Breaking Down the Walls” took a back door approach, getting these groups talking, sharing, and cooperating with regards to technology. Results include professional development and program changes. English/Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies Innovation Teams of nine K-12 teachers, three teacher educators, and three content faculty match up technology skills with state-mandated curriculum, then develop technology-rich units for integration in all parts of teacher preparation. Innovation Teams share on-line and meet monthly to analyze standards, develop a curriculum/technology matrix, work on lesson plans, and work in triads exploring and analyzing websites, lesson plans, and collaborations. Team members share and implement Innovation Team ideas and suggestions.