Infusing Technology into Pre-service Teacher Training: The Technology in Literacy Education (TILE) Program

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Overview

The technology-delivered Technology in Literacy Education (TILE) program employs rich video examples and dynamic web-based content and interactivity to present cutting-edge reading pedagogy complemented with strategies for classroom technology use. Supported by the US Department of Education's Preparing Tomorrows Teachers to Use Technology (PT3) grant program, TILE has been developed to help reading faculty infuse technology into reading methods classes for pre-service teachers. This session provides an overview of the TILE program – its vision and creation, a short demonstration of the product, and a review of the program evaluation conducted during TILE’s first implementation year. We close with a dialog designed to identify ideas and opportunities to optimize the program’s success through implementation and scalability.

Description

As part of a PT3 grant, two universities, a county office of education, and a production house that focuses on interactive technologies formed a partnership to improve pre-service teacher education. The 12-module product they designed and developed, named Technology in Literacy Education (TILE), provides interactive video cases, web and print resources, and activities to engage the user as they learn teaching practices. TILE is designed to support transformation of teacher preparation programs by increasing the technology proficiency of new teachers. The desired result is teachers who readily incorporate technologies in their practice, helping all students meet high academic standards. Pre-service teachers pursuing a single-subject teaching credential (middle and high school
level) use TILE as part of required reading methodology coursework. The program is introduced and supervised by Teacher Education faculty.

The TILE program is currently completing first full implementation year. Four reading methods professors have integrated the TILE program into their course curriculum and promoted the program’s use with their pre-service teachers. The pilot test evaluation employs a pre/post model, with a control group, to assess each of the following areas: student content knowledge in the areas of reading pedagogy and technology; attempts to apply program content into student teaching activities, and the success of such endeavors; contributing factors, including motivation, attitude, and relevance; and faculty perspectives surrounding the implementation and utility of this technology-based instructional tool.

Our paper, and conference session, will present an overview of the TILE program and vision, include a short demonstration of the product, and review results of the program’s initial implementation year. Pilot test results will provide a critical view into successes and shortcomings of the first implementation with faculty and their students. Following the presentation, we will engage in discussion with a focus on ways to optimize the program’s success through implementation and scalability.

**Session Type:** Poster Session

**Session Topic:** PT3

**Equipment Needs:** LCD projector; Internet access (for program demonstration); easel and flipchart