SITE Conference 2005
Round Table Proposal
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TITLE:
Differing Perspectives for the Use of Technology in Schools

ABSTRACT:
The goals for preparing teacher candidates and teachers for technology use in K-12 schools seem to be driven by varied purposes for such use. While some schools provide laptops for every student and teacher, other schools have students using shared computer software for practice in or presentation of their work, and yet other schools have such limited working equipment that shared desktop computers and overhead transparency projectors are available for teachers only. Teacher preparation programs must determine the skills necessary for teacher candidates to be technologically competent in K-12 schools, yet have to understand what that competence should entail.

PROPOSAL:
The authors of this presentation considered the following question: Are there differences in how different populations perceive the use of technology in K-12 education?

To answer this question, participants representing administrators, teachers, K-12 students, teacher educators, and teacher education candidates were asked to respond to an online questionnaire that address questions related to:

1. demographics
2. use of various forms of technology
   a. by teachers
   b. by K-12 students
3. purpose for technology equipment and implementation
   a. delivery of teaching
   b. cosmetic appearance
   c. vision of school
   d. preparation of students for post-graduation skills
   e. presentation of student work
4. factors that initiate technology implementation
   a. donors
   b. specific teachers and programs
   c. administration
   d. parents
   e. accreditation

Survey participants will also represent public and private schools to determine if there is a difference between the two types of schools.

The authors will have data to share at the round table to promote discussion relative to goals in teacher preparation pre-service and professional development settings.