Strategies for Engaging the Adult Learner in Web-Based Interactive, Active Learning

This best practices session will focus on how strategies designed from pedagogical methodologies to identify, capture and develop content to be delivered in a multimedia, interactive Web-based environment. The session will discuss different practices based on common functionality in the e-learning environment. The session will also identify the various technology issues involved with using multimedia and explore media capturing and conversion issues as it relates to engaging the adult learner in active learning in a Web-based environment.

Schroeder and Spannagel (2006) make the knowledge claim that constructivist and action-oriented pedagogical theories do not underlie the instructional design of online courses. Therefore, according to their claim many courses are based on the reactive design of instructional materials rather than the proactive which “assigns an active and constructive part to the learner” (Schulmeister, 2002).

In addressing this best practice session will identify and discuss several e-learning scenarios which implement constructivist and action-oriented ideas to show that learners may actively take part in the online learning process.

The main objectives are:

1. At the conclusion of this session, participants will a further understanding of developing courses to facilitate the active, constructivist role of the learner in a Web-based multimedia, interactive training program.

2. At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to understand the various technologies and use of the functionalities to engage adult learners in meaningful, active, applied skills learning.

The presentation will be conducted using a combination of formats and learning methodologies. Participants should be familiar with the delivery of content in the online environment and with the fundamentals of designing and delivering e-learning.

Dr. Squires Pang has not only over 17 years of law firm experience but in 1989 founded two corporations, LawPrep, Inc. and LawPrep Press, Inc. The primary focus of these entities was to develop and design law-related curricula that was marketed on a joint venture basis through major universities around the United States and individually to lawyers and paralegals to deliver legal education products and services. She was formerly President/COO of Legal EdNet.com and Manager, Firmwide Practice Section Development, Training and Forms for Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P. Dr. Squires Pang has served in a consulting capacity over the last ten years with various institutions and organizations in designing and developing curricula, adopting new technologies, integrating technology with instruction and implementing training and
professional education programs. Dr. Squires Pang also has experience providing multimedia, interactive distributed learning to working professions, as well as adult learners in law and business, via a variety of technologies including video streaming and online-conferencing (Webcasts, synchronous and asynchronous threaded discussion boards and chat rooms) via the Internet, satellite, ISDN-based videoconferencing and CD-ROM. She has managerial experience in educational multimedia course design and development including experience with instructional design and educational technologies. She has been responsible for the course design and delivery using Macromedia Director, Windows Media Player, FrontPage, PowerPoint, Blackboard, Prometheus, Webboard and a host of other platforms. She also has experience with digital video, MPEG, MOV and AVI Files.

Dr. Squires Pang has been a speaker at the MEC 2001 Conference: Turning a New Page in Educational Technologies sponsored by Arizona State University, the 2001 Conference on Training and Knowledge Management: Moving Beyond Training sponsored by Generation 21 Learning Management Systems and a speaker at various other e-learning conferences, E-Learn 2004 and Educa Berlin 2004.

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