Statewide Community of Instructional Leaders: e-Read Ohio Online Facilitators

e-Read Ohio, through a grant awarded to The University of Akron from the Ohio Department of Education, has developed a full menu of online professional development courses around effective reading instruction. These online courses are delivered to teachers statewide in an online or blended format. This online and classroom instruction is led by a state-wide group of online facilitators. These facilitators require ongoing professional development, a communication network, and a means of community building since they are geographically disbursed throughout the state. This community of e-Read Ohio facilitators has grown from twelve individuals in 2005 to nearly one hundred facilitators to-date.

Efforts to build and support this virtual community include the following: (1) A yearly face-to-face gathering, (2) monthly instructional podcasts, (3) in-depth book studies held virtually online that examine the methods of effective online instruction, (4) a cyber lounge area for instructors to get and receive information (5) the support of a full-time coordinator to ensure that the community’s needs are met and that the technology is used to effectively build, grown and support the virtual community.

In this session we would overview this statewide learning community, show the technology used to support it, and discuss plans for future growth and support.

Presenters would be:

Lisa Len hart, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Director, e-Read Ohio
The University of Akron

Lori Vargo
Assistant Director, e-Read Ohio
The University of Akron

LeAnn Krosnick
Assistant Director, e-Read Ohio
The University of Akron
Leann1@uakron.edu
330-972-8331