The Evolution of an Exceptional Online Educational Technology Course for Pre-Service Teachers

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This presentation focuses on the evolution of an exceptional online technology course for pre-service teacher education students at Michigan State University. As a consistently high-rated course by students, and the subject of an upcoming Tech Trends spotlight issue, this online course is aimed at developing fluency with, and innovative use of, educational technologies among pre-service teachers. We will discuss how we have leveraged Facebook, web design, and inquiry-based project learning/exploration to create effective learning experiences for our undergraduates. Many pre-service teachers initially have little or no experience with classroom technology, so we will discuss how this course blends pedagogy and content into lessons/projects aimed at developing confidence and fluency with educational technology. This presentation will discuss the ways the course helps pre-service teachers become more comfortable with rapid technological change, and equips them with the knowledge and skills to successfully manage the complexities of integrating technology into their future classrooms.