An Open Forum: Globalizing Technology in Teacher Education

Abstract: The International SIG invites participants to share about globalizing technology in teacher education in a variety of ways such as sharing international initiatives, networking in order to collaborate on projects or research, or describing how technology has made a difference in the lives of global citizens. This is an open forum designed as an interactive, participatory session with the goals of making global connections to develop Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy in teacher education. Come with one idea to share with your peers at SITE.

Introduction

Ten years ago Niki Davis (1999) asserted that today's teachers would be nearing the end of their teaching careers in 2040 with expectations that the environment and global issues would be a major focus in education. Consider the importance of these predictions. She reasoned that teachers should implement Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to develop students' respect for distant lands and culture. Furthermore, she adds there are three reasons to incorporate a global dimension in teacher education.

- The content for education is becoming global.
- The ICT is being used to increase access to education on a global scale.
- A global view can enhance teacher education through the provision of stimulating, rich contexts for critical reflection (p. 8).

This session is an open forum for SITE attendees who have an interest in expanding international components of their teacher education programs. It is designed as an interactive, participatory session with the goals of making global connections in teacher education.

How might information and communication technology (ICT) literacy with a global emphasis be identified in teacher education? It reflects the ability of pre-service educators to access, evaluate, organize and use technology in order to learn, problem-solve, communicate, or make decisions in formal and informal learning contexts, in a learning environment, at home, or in international settings (Bransford, J. D., Brown, A.L., & Cocking, R.R., 2000). Information and communication technology (ICT) literacy is a key characteristic of lifelong learners who are strongly connected with critical and reflective thinking with a global perspective. High-level literacy has implications for how different people in different countries or cultures experience the information and communication technology literacy agenda and how they integrate technology in their curriculum. Finally, information and communication literacy is not a method of teaching a set of skills but rather a process that should transform both learning and the culture of communities for the better (Breivik, 2000).

This session invites SITE participants to share ideas in these three areas in teacher education.

1. What are your international initiatives to globalize teacher education?
2. In what ways do you want to network internationally in order to collaborate on projects or research?
3. How has technology "made a difference" in the lives of global citizens?

Summarization of this session will be shared as part of the conference proceedings with the overall goals of using information and communication technology in teacher education for engagement, enablement, and empowerment of teachers and the learner.

References

Bransford, J. D., Brown, A.L., & Cocking, R.R. (2000). *How people learn: Brain, mind, experience, and school.* Washington, DC: Committee on Developments in the Science of Learning.

Breivik, P. (2000). *Information Literacy Around the World*, Christine Bruce & Candy P. Charles (ed.) , Sturt

University.

Bruce, C. (2002). *Information literacy as a catalyst for educational change: A background paper.* White paper prepared for UNESCO, the U.S. NCLIS and National Forum for Information Literacy. http://www.nclis.gov/libinter/

Davis, N. (1999). The globalisation of education through teacher education with new technologies: A view informed by research through teacher education with new technologies. *AACE Journal, 1*(12), 8-12. Charlottesville, VA: AACE.

Presenters: International SIG co-chairs

Note: Could this be scheduled on TUESDAY of the conference to allow people to meet, share, and network during the remainder of the week?