Transitioning a K-12 Technology Training Event to an Online Format in a Face-to-Face Culture

Jeremy Dickerson
Coastal Carolina University
United States
dickerson@coastal.edu

As a culminating activity during their final semester, Coastal Carolina University College of Education graduate students completing their Master's degree concentrating in Instructional Technology must design, develop and deliver instructional technology training sessions to local teachers. This symposium is an opportunity for graduate students to demonstrate knowledge and skills gained during their graduate program while also providing much-needed technology training to local schools. Graduate students have an opportunity to professionally interact and network with teachers and school personnel (session participants) with whom they may be seeking future employment. This is an opportunity to encourage local educators to consider the instructional technology program as a graduate school option and creates opportunities for graduate students to apply their coursework in an authentic, meaningful, real-world environment prior to graduation while providing service to the local public schools.

For the first two years, this event has been in a face-to-face environment and is now in the process of transitioning to an online format. Despite success as a face-to-face event, the faculty feels that it is critical to demonstrate and support online learning via this symposium. The participants involved in this professional development symposium are all K-12 teachers (325 total participants last year). Sessions are based on collaborative input with HCS technology and leadership staff as well as SCOE graduate program faculty. After two years of providing this service, this symposium is in the process of taking a successful and appreciated face-to-face event and moving this online (without the request to change formats and delivery methods). This session will present and discuss the transition process currently underway to maintain the level of expectations of the participants and school district as well as the techniques being used to ensure success. Topics include logistics, expectation management, tool selection, implications for instructional design and planning, and event assessment.