

**Proposal for a Roundtable Discussion  
at the  
20th International Conference  
of  
The Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education**

**Joy in Higher Education and Beyond:  
Using Technology to Frame and Reframe Academic Careers**

**Abstract:** This roundtable discussion is designed to help aspiring faculty as they engage in the process of creating an Academic Career. In this session, three educators at different levels of the academic ladder from one institution will share how technology has helped them reflect on their joy in teaching and document their personal academic achievements. In this discussion, a new Assistant Professor, a recently tenured Associate Professor, and an Associate Professor preparing to go up for Full Professor, will also share practical strategies for maintaining balance and joy in Higher Education.

*Why is it fun and rewarding to play in a game or work in an organization in which you are given a measure of control and responsibility? The answer lies in the nature of human beings.  
We are uniquely created with the ability to reason and to develop talents and skills;  
we are able to apply these gifts when making decisions;  
and we feel it is natural and appropriate to be held accountable for the actions we take.  
When all these factors come into play at the same time, we feel something approaching joy.  
Dennis W. Bakke in *Joy at Work: A Revolutionary Approach to Fun on the Job* (2005, p. 79)*

Technology is becoming increasingly important in higher education. As new technology is developed, professors sometimes have the dual role of teacher and learner. As Grementieri (1998) reported, "Communication strategies-especially those relating to teaching and learning-are changing profoundly in relation to the availability of new types of electronic knowledge" (p. 174). This roundtable discussion will begin with highlights from making the transition from a doctoral program to a position in the higher education realm. This discussion will include information on networking with college advisors, creating an appealing curriculum vita, and navigating the online process to find job opportunities. Additionally, practical strategies for preparing for the interview process and tips for modifying a dissertation into a conference presentation will be shared. Central to this portion of the discussion will be how the new faculty member made the transition to higher education while maintaining an enthusiastic outlook on all of the changes taking place in her life. As Delores Liston (2001) pointed out, "the way we experience our world is tied to the way we imagine it."

Moving along the career ladder, the other two faculty members will share a brief overview of their paths through the tenure and promotion process. Most recently, this process has included the infusion of technology based applications and portfolio preparation. The inclusion of technology has been welcomed by these faculty members; but, it has not come easily at times. Learning to use new platforms takes time and energy. However, technology in the academic process helps us show others how we have experienced our world. It allows us to integrate pictures and color into the once blank landscape of a Tenure and Promotion portfolio. It allows us to show how we have not just "implemented curriculum" but how we have "designed education" and it allows us to organize and reorganize ideas and concepts. (Liston, 2001, p. 5-6) We do this so that we can document and reflect on our experiences.

There is joy in this process of creating. There is also joy in the process of collaborating. All three faculty members will share how they work together to balance their lives in Academia and beyond. As Liston says, "Schools ought to be places where exciting things happen, where learners and teachers engage in meaningful exploration of themselves" (Liston, 2001 p. 218). The Tenure and Promotion process should be no less.

## References

Bakke, D. W. (2005) *Joy at work: a revolutionary approach to fun on the job*. Seattle Washington: PVG.

Grementieri, V. (1998, July). Innovation technology and higher education. *Higher Education in Europe*, 23(2), 169-175.

Liston, D. (2001) *Joy as a metaphor of convergence: A phenomenological and aesthetic investigation of social and educational change*. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.