

Title of Session: Teacher Education Faculty Forum

Moderator: Jan Naher-Snowden

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DeniseK: Hey Keith! I see you made it here. I couldn't remember if I sent you a note about this or not.

DeniseK: Hello, is anybody out there?

BJB2: hi

BJB2 . o O (sorry, was afk for a moment)

DeniseK: Hi, I was beginning to wonder if I was in the wrong place

BJB2 . o O (chatting is not one of Keith's strong suites)

DeniseK: Hmmm! Did he tell you that or have you picked up on that by his lack of response?

BJB2: the latter

DeniseK: Well, Keith and I are both students at University of Missouri - in the same program and taking the same course.

DeniseK: I guess I'll speak for both of us - or at least myself.

BJB2: thanks!

KeithCi: I was on the phone, sorry:)

BJB2 chuckles..yeah, yeah

KeithCi: but still not a big talker:)

DavidWe joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to David

DavidWe: Hi

DeniseK: I was interested in this forum as I have taught a couple of courses, both face to face and on the internet and was wondering about this forum

DeniseK: What is discussed here, etc.

BJB2: the Teacher Education Faculty forum or Tapped In forums in general?

DeniseK: The teacher ed faculty forum

BJB2 nods

Jan_NS joined the room.

BJB2: This forum was started to provide support to Teacher Ed faculty

DavidWe waves to Jan

DavidWe: Hi, Jan

BJB2 cheers for Jan...whew!

Jan_NS: Hi, sorry about the delay!

BJB2: and, with that, we can announce and do intros...hold on a sec

Jan_NS: what have I missed?

DavidWe: We were just missing you, Jan

DavidWe grins

Jan_NS: aw!

BJB2: a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of your chat window and click on DETACH

Jan_NS: Hello, Keith and Denise

KeithCi: hello

DeniseK: Hello Jan, David, BJ

BJB2: we usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with introductions. Can you please repeat your comments to me so Jan can plan the discussion?

DavidWe waves

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I help teachers learn more about educational technology, especially for math and science. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

DeniseK: I'm Denise - a PhD student in Ed Psych at University of Missouri.

KeithCi: I'm Keith, same as Denise:)

Jan_NS: so, two U. of Missouri folks

KeithCi: yes

DeniseK: I was interested in this forum as I have taught a couple courses, both face to face and on line and wanted to see what this forum was about

KeithCi: I too taught a teacher devl. course

Jan_NS: welcome. I teach at U. of Akron, Ohio -curricular and instructional studies - also an ABD doctoral student in science education-

DeniseK: Keith is Keith and Denise is Denise but we are both in the same program, both have the same advisor and both taking the same course at MU -

Jan_NS: ah, how to make muddy waters clear!

DeniseK: Which brings us to here.

Jan_NS: exactly - is this part of a course "to do"?

DeniseK: Yes - we were asked to go to Tapped In and select an event to participate in.

DavidWe smiles

Jan_NS: so I am guessing that teaching is part of your future?

DeniseK: This is not my first visit to Tapped In however. I visited here last year for another course at MU and really liked the site.

DeniseK: Probably!

Jan_NS smiles - it is a great place to network and try out new ideas, etc.

Jan_NS: How about you Keith?

BJB2 . o O (and Jan is a wonderful mentor for new teachers in any platform)

Jan_NS: aw, shucks!

DeniseK: Keith are you on the phone again?

KeithCi: I'll be teaching at the univ. level following graduation... I taught high school for 2 years before starting my program... I am certainly interested in preservice teacher ed.

Jan_NS shuffles her feet and tosses the down quilt on the floor.

DavidWe: Nice quilt, Jan

Jan_NS: cozy!

Jan_NS: cold here in Ohio

DeniseK: Keith and I have both TA'd in the teacher development program at MU so we are both familiar with the program here. There is, however, not much integration of web-based activities in our program - at least not at the level we were TAing at.

Jan_NS: Ok, given that I was definitely in the range of flexibility for this evening, I am open to suggestions. I would like to share some bloggers who are addressing the use of blogs in education of all ages and grades

DeniseK: Sounds interesting

KeithCi: that sounds good

Jan_NS: But we can discuss any other topic if you would like.

Jan_NS: How about you, David?

Jan_NS: Are you familiar with RSS and news readers?

DeniseK: Nope!

Jan_NS . o O (is anyone?)

BJB2: I'm familiar with the term

BJB2 . o O (I've attended most of the Blogstreams Salon discussions)

BJB2: before we get too deeply into RSS feeds, I'd like to mention an upcoming event...

BJB2: in January we'll be starting to plan the Tapped In Hurricane Central Mini Expo

BJB2: which will be focused on providing online teaching and mentoring to displaced teachers from the gulf region

Jan_NS listens intently.

BJB2: we'd also like to discuss the feasibility of having a homework help group or tutoring center in the Student Campus

BJB2: this will have to include teacher ed faculty and preservice teachers

BJB2: who will serve as mentors and tutors

BJB2: we'd also like to get as many TI member teachers involved in the mentoring as we can

BJB2 looks around at the stunned participants in this discussion

BJB2 waits for comments or questions

BJB2 ducks any rotten tomatoes

BJB2 . o O (or eggs)

DeniseK: Are you announcing the event or soliciting volunteers?

Jan_NS: So, seems that we will be setting up times for tutoring for gulf state students?

BJB2 chuckles...both, Denise. Starting in January we will be planning for the event

BJB2: that may be one of the things we'll want to do, Jan...not sure how it will work yet

DeniseK: And so right now your interest is.....?

BJB2: but the classrooms are overcrowded and the teachers are stressed...and many are slowing starting to come out of crisis mode...

BJB2: so we want to step in now and offer some kind of services to help

Jan_NS: getting folks to brainstorm how we at Tapped In can assist? Am I close?

BJB2 . o O (this group was started right after the hurricanes)

BJB2 nods to Jan

BJB2: what you can do first is join the Hurricane Central group...

Jan_NS: are other teachers our main focus or their students?

DeniseK: Are you planning on having forums like this one - where group tutoring can take place? Or what about an increase in web-based course offerings to lower the number of students in the classroom? Are we talking pre-service teacher ed or K-12 classroom?

BJB2: I'm not sure if we can focus on the students without focusing on the teachers first

Jan_NS: seems like an opening for the k-12 student portion of Tapped In, BJ.

BJB2: right, Jan, but there are obstacles...

Jan_NS: Maybe Keith and Denise are not familiar with that aspect of what goes on here, just in a general sense.

BJB2: like students have to be assigned usernames by the teachers

BJB2 agrees...are you familiar with the student campus, Denise and Keith?

KellyN joined the room.

DavidWe: A place for K-12 students - away from the main Tapped In campus

KeithCi: no

BJB2 . o O (part of what I had envisioned was the Science Forums in the studios in the SAC...)

Jan_NS: Hi, Kelly, welcome

DeniseK: I'm somewhat familiar with it and had the interesting experience of being in the chat room a few days ago when students were chatting?

KeithCi: I'm pretty new to tapped-in

KellyN: hello all

DeniseK: They were giving David a run for his money as I recall - testing his tolerance of foul language I presume

KellyN: sorry I'm late

BJB2: I think a great example is going to happen next Tuesday with the Math and Science discussion in the Robotics (K-12) group room in the SAC

BJB2: Hi, Kelly

BJB2 starts from the beginning

DavidWe: Well, it can be a bit annoying sometimes, but...real life

DavidWe appreciates BJ plugging the Math/Science session

BJB2: the SAC is the student activities center

BJB2 . o O (student campus)

BJB2: no guests are able to enter the SAC

BJB2: teacher must create a group room in the SAC...

BJB2: and assign usernames and passwords for their students

DavidWe . o O (it is a relatively SAFE online environment)

DeniseK: I thought about it afterwards - trying to imagine a teachers' response to that dialogue in a face-to-face setting.

DavidWe: Well, I'm sure it happens in the halls of most high schools, in gym class, etc.

BJB2 . o O (that is the obstacle to recruiting students before teachers)

BJB2: Kelly, we're discussing a Tapped In group that wants to assist displaced teachers affected by the hurricanes in the Gulf

Jan_NS: It seems that we will be having an obstacle just trying to locate and contact these teachers

DeniseK: I know it does - and that is what I found interesting. My thought is that this is a learning environment so I liken it to a very informal learning opportunity and am thinking about what that means since, as a teacher you are smack dab in the middle of student dialogue that they might normally sensor. So..you know, how do you respond?

Jan_NS: Good question, Denise.

BJB2: Denise, the teacher has the right to delete a student account if the student doesn't follow the norms of the classroom

BJB2 . o O (proper netiquette is required in TI)

BJB2: I am assuming that all students must sign an AUP before they bring their K-12 students online anyway

Jan_NS: David - please share your thoughts about your experiences with students in SAS

DeniseK: My sister has taught for 100 years and she had to take a prof. dev. course this year to learn to use technology and integrate it in her teaching. She was lost (with a handful of other teachers) and I have been sending her resources I know about. It would be a great setup if there was a way to tap in to those types of professional development opportunities and use these experienced teachers expertise as they learn to integrate technology...sort of using technology to integrate technology thing.

Jan_NS: That is part of the focus of Tapped In, at least in the way that I approach the discussion that I facilitate.

BJB2 nods

DeniseK: But I suspect you've already considered that....and figuring out how to access those prof. dev. courses.

BJB2: we offer these calendar events, Denise

DeniseK: Right! but my sister had never heard of Tapped In and it wasn't a part of their class so...that is what I'm talking about.

BJB2: all intended to be prof dev opportunities

BJB2: Tapped In usually is learned about through word of mouth

BJB2 hopes Denise will invite her sister to join Tapped In!

DeniseK: Right! But I guess what I'm noting is that people are offering prof. dev. courses for integrating technology and they aren't aware of this great resource.

BJB2 . o O (great FREE resource)

DeniseK: Yes! I showed my sis the environment and also recently sent her the URL again.

BJB2: do you have any suggestions on how to 'advertise' Tapped In?

Jan_NS: depending on where you are and how active the instructors are in exploring prof. dev. opportunities on the web. I found out about Tapped In in 1999 during an online course with Bernie Dodge of Webquest.

BJB2 . o O (Bernie leads a monthly WebQuest discussion here in TI)

DeniseK: That was my wonderment? How is it funded? For instance, if I was talking to a prof. dev. provider and told them about Tapped In, I suspect they'd want to know cost? etc.

BJB2: TI is funded by grants

BJB2: Tenant organizations support the interface a little

DeniseK: Ahhh! Cool!

BJB2: by paying for their buildings and features

BJB2: there is no fee for individual educators to join

DeniseK: Speaking of Bernie Dodge and Webquests. I have to build a Webquest for my course this semester and I wanted to do something with teacher ed? Any ideas or examples? I have found webquests for K-12 but haven't had much luck with teacher ed webquests yet.

BJB2: originally, TI was funded by a NSF grant

BJB2: o O (Jan is the expert here...although you may want to look at QuestGarden, Denise)

DeniseK: Has research been done on Tapped In environments and been published and/or presented at conferences?

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: yes, Denise

DavidWe: <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/papers/>

DeniseK: I suspect that builds more awareness about the environment?

DeniseK: Thanks!

DavidWe: Sure

DavidWe: limited audiences

DeniseK: I'll check out questgarden. Jan, did you have any other ideas?

BJB2: Denise, there is an archived transcript on questgarden (it's one of Bernie's creations)

DeniseK: See, that is what I find amazing. I think this site is great. I found it easy to navigate and even when I couldn't figure it out, someone was there to assist me.

BJB2: take a look at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

Jan_NS: as for teacher ed. related webquests, also check out an advanced search on google or another search engine, search specifically for webquests and teacher education or a similar term

DavidWe: We like to think that other people will find those "advantages" of Tapped In, too, Denise

BJB2: Helpdesk is one of the most important 'features' of Tapped In

Jan_NS: gives me an idea, Denise. Teacher educ. related webquests might be a good topic for a future discussion for this group

DeniseK: Jan, I think you're right. That and blogs -which seem to be the primary focus of the course I'm taking.

DeniseK: And I have to say it is overwhelming for someone who is not computer savvy. Just the huge amount of information out there.

Jan_NS: speaking of blogs (the latest phenom in discussion in education/computer savvy circles).

Jan_NS: check this link for some more information: http://www.weblogg-ed.com/why_weblogs

DeniseK: And you really have to begin with the end in mind when creating a webquest I think. You have to think about what you want the student to be able to do and then what information, experiences, resources, etc. they will need to get there.

BJB2 smiles...excellent transition, Jan!

Jan_NS: in my mind, always start with the end in mind when planning instruction, no matter the age or grade

DeniseK: Okay, so speaking of blogs. How do you guys use them?

Jan_NS: check the link above - do a quick skim of this post on a real functional blog. A great one, btw.

Jan_NS: http://www.weblogg-ed.com/why_weblogs

Jan_NS: this is a good place to start and this blogger has many links and resources here.

Jan_NS: I can also send along some other resources. Digital Divide network also has resource files that tie the ideas and the mechanics together.

DeniseK: Okay, I have the link up and am looking it over. Thanks! (Duh! since I'm not a computer whiz. I didn't know I could access the link and still stay in the chat room

Jan_NS: oops, sorry that I forgot to remind everyone. But congratulations, you figured it out on your own!

KeithCi: I've just learned how to do them on my own... I'm open to learning how preservice teacher/teachers can use them personally or as a teaching tool

DeniseK: What about case studies? Could blogs be a forum for posting and discussing case studies?

Jan_NS: definitely!

KeithCi: good idea

Jan_NS: Another use is for collaborative group work - on a paper, or a project.

DeniseK: Keith, we could have used that on this group project we just finished, huh?

DeniseK: Just a question. Will we get a transcript of this chat. I want to be sure I get the websites I may have missed?

Jan_NS: send your email to me privately and I will send along some other links to resources on blogging in education.

KeithCi: I think it gets email to you as soon as you exit

DeniseK: Okay! Jan. Thanks!

Jan_NS: yes, Denise - you will automatically get an unedited transcript when you log out.

DeniseK: By the way Jan. I visited your office and found the website you posted for preservice teacher educators. I was glad to find that resource.

Jan_NS: Keith, Kelly and Denise, thanks for joining us this evening. Please join us in the new year. Don't forget about Hurricane Central and the Mini-Expo

Jan_NS: you are very welcome, Denise.

DeniseK: Okay. Thanks for all your good ideas, resources, etc. I'll keep blabbing about the merits of Tapped In. Be Well!

Jan_NS: Thanks for your assistance, David. Always a pleasure to have you participating.