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EDAD 536-Fall 2015

Reflections (in addition to those on my blog)

Summit Reflection

Attending Future Ready Summit was a fantastic opportunity. The keynote speaker was inspiring, and I also attended two very relevant breakout sessions.

The keynote speaker David Jakes really focused on innovation and how people apply it to traditional products and experiences to create new and exciting opportunities. I really appreciated the examples he shared about how so many new innovations are less about ownership and more about collaborative spaces. I particularly loved the quote he used in his presentation: "Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has thought." "Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has thought." "Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has thought."

I attended both of Katie White's breakout sessions. The first was on Flipped Classrooms and the second was Spicing Up Your PD with Technology. Katie's enthusiasm for technology was infectious. Although I no longer have a classroom, I was gathering information on the flipped classroom for my instructional coaches to share with teachers. She not only gave some creative ideas, but she also gave some great realistic solutions for some of the speed bumps teachers hit when trying to implement flipped classrooms.

During the second session Katie focused on how to integrate ed tech into professional learning. She shared several great ideas, but the one I was most excited about was Tech Thursdays. It's the idea of providing a quick (20-30 minute) optional tech training for folks who are interested in learning new tech tidbits. She even shared the idea of using punchcards attendance and awarding tech prizes for full cards. I love this idea because it "feeds" the teachers who are excited about technology.

Sigata Mitra TED Talk Reflection

Quotes that Resonated With Me:

"Good teachers don't want to go to those places where they are most needed"

"Groups of children can learn to use the internet on their own despite who and where they were."

"A teacher that can be replaced by a machine, should be."

"If children have interest, then education happens."

"If there is stuff on google, why would you need to stuff it in your head?"

"Use the method of the grandmother: Stand behind them and admire them."

"Self Organized Learning Environments –SOLE"

"A self organizing systems is one where a structure appears without explicit intervention from outside the system."

"A single child in front of a single computer will not do that." (talk to each other and imprint the learning)

I really enjoyed this TED talk. Not only is Sigata Mitra an engaging speaker, he is the epitome of growth mindset. I loved how much he believes and trusts that children can and will learn if we allow them to do so.

I heard something in this talk that I also heard during the David Jakes keynote, and that is the value of having children share technology over having a 1:1 device setting. They both spoke of how critical the discussion and collaboration is during the process when children share one device. This is a really important point for me to consider as I lead work on an upcoming technology grant that includes proposing what a standard classroom technology set up should be for elementary classrooms in our district.

Resource Exploration Reflection

- MindShift: I really love the diversity of topics that this site offers. I found myself definitely following rabbit trails on this one. At one point I realized I was 4 sites away by clicking on links that were interesting and relevant to me.
- Zhaolearning.com: I've enjoyed the works of Yong Zhao that I've read in the past, but I didn't realize he had a blog. I thought it was timely that the most recent entry was Outcome vs. Process: Different Incarnation of Personalization, and I recently provided a professional learning opportunity around differentiation in the classroom that focused on the distinction between differentiating process and product. As with Mindshift, I like the broad scope of the topics on this site.
- Digital Directions: I did like the topics I saw on this site, but I'm always frustrated that Edweek wants a paid subscription to access their articles. I understand their need to generate income, but with so many free resources out there I'm not willing to pay for this one.
- Digital Is: I was excited to see that this resource is connected with the National Writing Project. I immediately thought of a particular middle school teacher in our district who has two passions: writing and technology. I will definitely check in with him to make sure he has seen this. My favorite part of the resource was the "Collections" tab where they gathered resources by topic. The topics aren't the typical ones you see and they seem quite thought provoking.

Daniel Pink RSA video

- When a task becomes cognitively demanding, even in a small degree, they will perform worse with higher offer of reward.
- Self direction leads to the higher levels of engagement in the work place.
- Challenge and master are a motivating purpose (we are purpose maximizers)

DRivE by Daniel Pink-Lit Review

It's always surprising to see how many business books really apply so well to the education world as well. Drive is definitely one of those books. I have read bits and pieces of it before, but this was my first time reading the book in entirety.

The part of this book I most connected with was part two pertaining to the three elements. I think those three elements are crucial in our work as leaders and professional developers.

- Autonomy: I have an ongoing struggle in my role pertaining to autonomy. I absolutely agree with Pink about the crucial importance of autonomy, however, much of my job is related to compliance to state and federal regulations. I am constantly trying to find ways to provide autonomy to people within the context of mandates.
- Mastery: Mastery is the key to most of our work here in the teaching and learning department. Our work is focused on creating engagement and buyin with teachers so that they can master their craft and by doing so foster engagement and mastery within their students.
- Purpose: Again, purpose is a huge part of the work here in our department. We try to follow the idea of "start with the why" so that people understand the purpose and impact of a particular strategy or action.

Get On With It- Sigata Mitra

I was not at all familiar with Sigata Mitra prior to this class, but I am a huge fan of his work now. I love his approach to empowering children to be curious, creative, and innovative. He really seems like someone who doesn't let traditional roadblocks get in the way. I love his collaborative approach to how a giant school in the clouds could be created by linking up many small SOLEs to create a giant resource for learning.

Class Session Reflection

It was fun to have the opportunity to experiment and play with imovie in class today. I have worked in imovie some, but it's always good to have time to practice. I do see myself using it more as the facilitator of this Technology Integration Partnership that I will be sharing as my final project. One of the components that I plan to incorporate into that project is the creation of an itunesU technology PD course for teachers in our district. It is likely that I will use imovie for the editing and production of the videos that we will use in those PD modules.

Additional Reflection: Digital Leadership Presentation by Eric Sheninger from the International Center for Educational Leadership in Education.

I attended a 4 hour training at the MESD on November 10th with Eric Sheninger about Digital Leadership. It was totally right inline with the work we have been doing in this class. The overarching theme of his presentation was really that the technology should be the focus of the learning, but rather the tool for the learning. Below are some of the key quotes that resonated with me during his presentation.

- "The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion."
- "Leadership is not about position. It's about action."

- "How can you prepare students for the future, if you are stuck in the past?"
- "Is school relevant? Am I relevant? Are my colleagues relevant?"
- "How do we fundamentally improve teaching and learning and leadership. If you just focus on the technology you are wasting time, energy and money." (Eric)
- "Technology is a tool, not a learning outcome." Bill Ferriter
- "You build the lessons around learning...not technology."
- "Unless you get instructional design right, technology will just speed up the rate of failure."
- "Pedagogy is the driver, technology is the accelerator." -Michael Fullan
- "Limitations can cause people to be more creative."
- Your job is not to learn all of the tools. Your job is to assess them at meeting the standards. You put the tech options out there and tell them how they will be assessed. Then support them on how they choose a tool that will work for them.
- When you substitute technology for the same archaic task you are not improving learning.