

PD:

09:52:27 Alright. So, I will start our interview questions the topic is talking about. How do you learn new things outside of formal education? I will ask seven total questions, and you share how much you are comfortable sharing. Alright. So, describe your approach to learning new things outside of the formal school setting.

CG

09:52:56 So, my approach is multi-faceted. To learn outside of the formal school setting, most of what I learn is through conversations with other people. I to talk to people and hear their thoughts, but I can learn a lot from what they are saying. And I also use questioning a lot. I learn better by asking a lot of questions. But then, like, follow up questions to things that people are saying because I feel like I get a better understanding of you know what the person is saying and I would also say that I do a lot of Professional Learning communities or personal learning communities. I'm on many email forums with different technology directors from the state. And you know list has a lot of community forums and periodicals, like, you know, reading articles and just reading different like You know articles. We are on different topics to stay current. So, I mostly learn from others. Then, I learned so much about YouTube and AI using Chat GPT and asked Chat GPT questions because I felt I could get some answers. Then, I ask follow-up questions and frames like my understanding of things. So, I also use YouTube and AI to learn a lot.

PD

09:54:34 Alright. So, you sound like a general researcher. Questions are your answers. It's true, it's true. I learned the best one. I asked a lot of questions. Listen. Those are the best types of people. Sorry, second question. Has Technology impacts how you learn and how you learn outside of school.

CG

09:54:56 Yeah. The use of AI tools, like YouTube and AI, but also, you know, just the fact that I can be in an email group with technology corners and coordinators from throughout the State. Where we can share information, we can share things we learn. We can share, you know, and ask questions. Oh, I'll see! That's huge. It provides so many opportunities. What? That I wouldn't have normally been able to connect with people. You know. Also, I use XA a lot, which was formerly used to learn a ton. Because so many people put little snippets. And if it's something I'm interested in, like I love Alice Keeler and all of her Google Apps. For education knowledge that she's constantly sending out there. So it's just like short little bursts. And it's nice because it can. This kind of technology allows me to learn anytime, so I can bid it in whenever I have time to fit it in, as opposed to, you know. Okay, I have to sit down and try to learn. Technology enables me to learn whenever I can. And whenever I have some chances and So is. Technology is mostly how I learn. I learn using technology tools.

PD

09:56:14 So it's funny because This is a side question but also feeds into the next question. What motivates you to learn new things? What do you think? Is this is why you went into the field of tech as a profession?

CG

09:56:29 Yeah, I think so, because, I think I am passionate about educational technology and technology to be used as a tool for teaching and learning. So I think that., You know, it fuels my passion to use it to learn as a learner myself. You know, I think that Passion is part of what motivates me to learn. When I find something interesting, I love that technology allows me to access other resources and ways to find that information or to find further information. Technology allows me to not just, Stop at the 1st article I read because a lot of times, there are hyperlinks or things in there that I like. Oh, wait! That's interesting, too. What is that? Or when they're tagging, especially on social media, as a way to learn, like, you know, tagging to other people and other things, right? It helps me expand my learning. So it's not just like, Oh, I've learned this, and now I'm done like I'm expanding on it constantly by, You know, going down that rabbit hole sometimes it's a bad thing. Especially with our doctoral classes, you could start with something for your formalized paper. But then you end up down this rabbit hole that you never expected to be in

09:57:49 That's the beauty of technology and giving you so many resources because it gives you many different perspectives. So you can get a deeper understanding of the content or find different ways to view it instead of just reading this textbook the author looks at it in so many different ways and elements of it. Did I answer the question?

PD

09:58:15. Did it also have to do with? How did it motivate you to learn?

CG

09:58:19 I would say so.

PD

09:58:21 Awesome.

CG

09:58:22 Motivates me to learn by giving me more information and ways to examine a problem.

PD

09:58:27 I don't know. That sounds like a lifelong learner to me.

CG

09:58:31 Yes, that's right. It's funny because I got, like, I graduated college in 1997, so the Internet was just starting and I feel like I went out. I became a teacher, but I was learning in that setting. But I started using social media once. And then I had like Constant connection, as my learning just exploded. You know, So when tech started taking on those avenues, it became more robust and advanced.

PD

09:59:04 That's you. You can say you're a pioneer.

CG

09:59:11 because we had to seek learning opportunities before that. If you were like, oh, I have to learn about this, but it was. It was a process. You had to go to the library to look for a book you had to, you know. Try to pick up the phone and call someone like it took a lot

longer. But once we had the technology and the Internet connections and the resources that were available at our fingertips, it was unbelievable. Like me, I had to use a microphone Fish machine the other day? Because we had something I don't even know. Do you know what that is? Like? The film? It's like a. It's a film. And it's like you take your worksheet and put it on this tiny little film. But you need this machine to be able to magnify it, to see it.

PD

09:59:50 Is, is it? Are they usually in libraries? Oh, my!

CG

09:59:52 So sometimes there are libraries. But I had to go to Lehigh University because it was an academic library because these things are so old. It's such old technology. But, that's how I had to do my research when I was a senior in college for my senior thesis because everything was on microbe machines. And now it's like I can just Google it and get any information I want. I have access to a plethora of journals. An academic journal and quality sources, you know. So yeah, it's excited. My lifelong learning.

PD

10:00:28 It's funny because you have already started our next question: How do you apply what you learned to your professional job and responsibilities?

CG

10:00:36 Yes, I can have that anytime like it. Things I'm doing in my job connect more to what I'm learning. So I'm looking to learn, or I'll come across things. And I'm like, Wait a minute. I didn't even realize that I needed to learn more about that. But like this is going to help me my job, you know. I think, especially in the school setting and educational technology integration, like, we kind of really have to know tips and tricks and kind of be on our game, and, you know, be aware of what other people are doing in their curriculum and their classrooms, and what they're looking to do so that we can when we see things we could be like. Hey, wait a minute—that person. I Was looking for that answer. Now that I can help them, I look at it in those terms, too. Is, you know. How can I use my learning to help those I'm trying to help and support in my job? It's funny, Alan. I'm sure you already picked up on it, like when you go to conferences and listen to other people's sessions.

PD

10:01:37 As I said, when I worked with Pip and Jeff, we were trying to figure out how we're going to break these videos into chunks.

CG

10:01:54 Oh yes!

PD

10:01:59 Yeah. Boring professional videos up, and I went to her name is Katie. She was one of the people who was here. She spoke it in. Jack and she talked about microlearning and that concept of taking big chunks of information, breaking it down, and then making the system out of it.

CG

10:02:17 Wow! On a side note, she just got a job in the district next to me as a technology coordinator. Yep. So she's now part of our consortium because we have a little county consortium. It's all the little districts sending districts to the high school. There's about five of us, but now, she may participate in that roundtable discussion each month, so I'm excited to work with her.

PD

10:02:33 Oh, yeah, she's she's amazing!

CG

10:02:34 She's fantastic. I'm so excited.

PD

10:02:37 Alright! Almost there. So, question number 5. Are you a part of, which you've been snipping at? But you can go into a bit more. Are you part of any outside organizations that you use for learning? Which is the most useful one for you to learn new things?

CG

10:02:54 Yeah, I'm part of a couple of different ones. But I'm part of the New Jersey school technology officers Group and also NJack. I know we've been at NJack before. The educational conference or consortium, whatever they're called, but those I would say in NJack and Mj. Aslo is the school technology one. Those are the two instrumental ones that are so helpful to me, especially as an educator in the tech world, and I don't have as much. Prior knowledge or experience with, you know, servers and switches and the network side of things. And they've just been a huge resource for me. It was just being able. We have a Google group. It's been nice just to go on and ask questions whenever we need it. And everybody chimes in. It's that community of practice, right? It's that, you know, that community of learning is so supportive of me. And Jack is the same way when we attend monthly meetings, and I love that. We can also jump on Zoom; they offer opportunities to share your ideas. But then, as you said, like learning from others who have some great ideas or things that they use in their practice, and they're just sharing what they do. But it's so helpful. And then the other, the 3rd one. I am curious if we need three, but the third one that is helpful to me is the New Jersey School Public Relations Association. I've been doing a ton with communication, and it seems like our tech. The coordinator's role sometimes morphs into communication. Officers, Gary. Mine is kind of in now. I joined that group, and it's been phenomenal in helping me with that side of my job that I don't have. I'm not a marketing person. I don't have a communications degree, but that group has helped me with that element of my job. So the key is to try to find a resource. For each aspect of my job. Since, you know, in a school technology department, we just have. So we wear so many hats, you know. So C is great for the educational tool side, but on a local level, I find Jack helpful, Jazz does, and Jsra.

PD

10:05:08 I love that you broke your learning communities into like your actual, like the responsibility that makes. That makes so much sense. Thank you for that cause. Now, I am inspired to join the NJSLA

CG

10:05:19 Oh, good! And it helps me categorize, too. If I need help with this, I go to this group, you know like I tried to pick one name group to help Facilitate that, you know, cause it can get overwhelming. There's a lot out there.

PD

10:05:34 Yes.

CG

10:05:35 Right. Is it? So much out there And the funny part is too like Forget which group it is, but somebody sends out like a Paper, magazine. But, by the time I get the magazine, we're already past those. Honestly It cracks me up. It's like a tech magazine, but by the time it gets into my mailbox, I stop by and pick it up. I've read through the digital part already. We're we're way past the conversation.

PD

10:06:04 Awesome. Alrighty question. Number 6. What challenges do you face when you learn things on your own? And how do you overcome these challenges?

CG

10:06:13 Hmm! That's a great question. So, one of my challenges is that I get down the rabbit hole, especially when working on a paper or something. I get far away from what I'm trying to do. So I think that at some point, it is because learning is so accessible. At some point, I just have to, you know. Stop and then try to refocus. So, one of my challenges is to remember why. I'm doing it keep the goal in focus so that I don't get off. Because it's fun for me to learn. I think technology makes learning so Barely. You still need to explain it. I. Right. You. You get it. You get it. We're off the same alley. So that's part of it is trying to keep myself on task, focused, and so on. That's why helping compartments is where I get information. I know they're trusted sources. I know that. I'm getting valuable, Reliable information. So trying to look at that, that's, and I think that's a challenge for everyone in this day and age, especially if you're using Twitter, or acts like, you know, for learning great learning communities there. But you must know what you're in and who you're with. And question, you know, question everything. So that's one of my challenges. When to turn it off.

PD

10:07:40 As actually. It's funny cause, I answered. The same way. That's a good challenge. Because it's like everything's out there. I want it all. Obviously, I can't.

CG

10:07:48 Yeah, yeah. And I do love, like. Like. I don't. I guess this could be a learning challenge, too, like, you know, making sure you surround yourself with people who want to learn, you know, because, like, sometimes, you'll sit meetings where people don't want to learn, and it's hard to try to teach people how to learn things who don't want to learn right? I mean, that's teachers face challenges every day in their classrooms, so I think about making sure I'm surrounded by them. People who want to learn and have a shared vision and move with you, you know, in your learning. So that's important, too. It's funny because that's been me a while. We're we're doing this doctorate. And these conversations I love, like, oh, my gosh! That's a learning challenge, too. Sometimes it's the time. Because you can get sucked

into a conversation with somebody, and if the excitement is there? The motivation and the learning make you much more engaged and excited about what you're doing. And sometimes that takes a lot of time.

PD

10:08:51 Yeah. Alrighty. So we have one more question. Okay. Have you had a very impactful learning experience? Can you describe what it was and why it was impactful?

CG

10:09:03 Know Yeah, specific learning experience. A learning era like an era of. We're like, yeah, this is it? I mean, in all honesty, I don't know because we're talking about how people learn. So it needs to be formalized. My biggest impactful learning experience has probably been my journey with Njcu. Like, you know, coming Out of college and saying, I want to be a high school social teacher like that was my path. That's what I wanted to do.

PD

10:09:36 You are a social studies teacher; that's cool.

CG

10:09:37 Yeah, I was. I did that for eight years. And then, when I had my kids, I left. When I came back, I wanted to do something else, you know, and I felt like having little kids going back for my master's if I had to go to a synchronous in-person. Call it a traditional college experience; I would have never been able to do it. I would have never gotten my master's. And then also, the doctorate, like the doctoral program, is accessible to me, living an hour away an hour and 10 min away from Njcu, because I can do it online. The most impactful learning experience for me is having that asynchronous. Online opportunity to explore my education, you know, and further my career through furthering my education. But it wouldn't have been possible if I didn't have technology. There's no way I would have been able to do it.

PD

10:10:33 And it's funny. Kindly elaborate on your question or answer. I think We're living the same life. Because, honestly, I feel the same way. If ng, well, my! I didn't answer the question like that. My experience was when I was out in the country.

CG

10:10:53 Oh, wow! That opportunity of utilizing technology to like its peak. It's a practice cause, and that's what we're learning to do, but we're also practicing as students so that we can see.

PD

10:11:10 Learning, with technology and learning From technology. So it's cool to see how this degree is full circle. You not only learn how to use tech and educational space, but you also learn How you're going to experience it as well as a student.

CG

10:11:25 Absolutely, and just the connections we're making. You know, I learn a lot from other people and can make those connections, and even, I'm from a very rural area. Going

to that urban setting every summer is awesome for me; it's such a different perspective, and something that is valuable. It's a really valuable experience I can bring back to my district in my area. And that's a really important part, too.

PD

10:11:56 I love how you say Perspective and coming here It's me speaking as a person from the urban area. A lot of people don't like to see it.

CG

10:12:09 Yeah.

PD

10:12:05 I'm not saying that I'm not just talking about Jersey City, but that many people don't like going to the city or urban areas. So it's cool to hear someone say, Yeah, I like coming here because you get to get the experience of experiencing something else for a week and see. So thank you for that.

CG

10:12:23 Yes, and it's true cause it's easy to live in your bubble, right? And, if you don't under, you can read a book about urban areas' challenges. But until you go and experience. It's it's hard to connect to that, you know. So, how did we do on time?

PD

10:12:46 Yeah. So, I am going to stop recording.