

NISOD 2011
Margaret Patin

Session Summaries

Beyond Web 2.0: How a Virtual Learning Environment Can (and should) Help Learners:

Jeff Borden, Pearson eCollege

Presenter showed numerous film clips and visuals taken from the internet. He also shared a web address and login information for us to access these and other materials.

<http://eteaching.ecollege.com>

login: cite2010

pass: cite2010

check Document sharing for resources list

Lighten Up! Adding Humor to Lessons is Easier Than You Think!

Annette Cook, Shelton State Community College

Presenter discussed the use of humor in the class to help get points across, help students remember items that must be memorized, and give a “break” to help students re-focus on the work at hand. She shared some of her archived materials. I found this especially helpful because she is also a math instructor and many of her materials relate to math.

Roundtable: I wanted to go to a roundtable discussion on teaching college algebra online, but the session was canceled and instead I attended

Court-Ordered Desegregation in Mississippi: The Law of the Land

This was conducted by an historian who is compiling an oral history of first-hand experiences of those present when Mississippi schools were desegregated in the late 1960's. Since I was a Miss. High school student at the time, I found this discussion interesting and was able to contribute my own experiences.

Accelerating on the Transitional Math Expressway

Instructors and Administrators from Sowela Technical Community College

This school found that developmental math students performed better in the summer than in the traditional semesters. Assuming it was because they spent a more concentrated time in study, they put their developmental courses in this same compressed framework in the regular semester. They found some improvement in those circumstances for many students. However, they only tried it for one year and had mixed reviews from faculty.

You Tube or You Missing Out?

Albert Groccia, Valencia Community College

Presented stressed using videos in the classroom to highlight important points and/or “wake” up students. This session was very similar to the session on humor that I attended earlier in the day. Though the presenter promised to email his presentation which had specifics on where to find videos and how to save them. I have contacted him 3 times and received no response.

THECB Invests in Big Change for Developmental Education

Panel of speakers

This presentation featured some of the pilot programs that the Coordinating Board has funded. A person from each school gave some description of the project they were involved in. There were vague details given about each, but no “meat” about how they did it and how much it cost. Also, they were given special waivers from TSI requirements for these projects. There was little said about how effective these projects were.

Xcelerate Math Immersion

Greenville Technical College

A 2-week intensive math review workshop is held in the summer before students take the math placement test. The presenter thinks this makes math placement more accurate. Problems include convincing students to participate and the school bears all the cost for the instructors. Students are required to sign a contract, but pay no money.

When They Come to Class, Make Them Work!

San Jacinto College

Math instructors discussed the hand-on activities they use in their classrooms—primarily cooperative learning—and why this is more effective than standard lecture. They have also found that the time spent in these activities pays off in reducing the need for reteaching.

Community Colleges: Ready for Prime Time

Dynamic Campus and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Dynamic Campus was the most interesting presentation I saw. They are a company that fully contracts all data services for a college. They supply software, hardware and expertise for data collection and provide all reports and data manipulation required by a college on a contract basis. The PTK speaker spoke of the importance of effective community colleges to provide a skilled workforce for the US economy.

Light Within the Tunnel: Accelerated Developmental Math Sequence
Cuyahoga Community College

These presenters have an accelerated sequence that gives 2 developmental courses and college algebra each in 5 week sessions so that students complete all math requirements in one semester. This experiment has been through 2 semesters and so far the results are a little better than those students doing the same work in 3 semesters. However, the retention rate is much better.