

Concord Consortium has been a leader in the development of online education, and now has expanded into the use of video and interactives to enrich the online experience. We have developed a philosophy on the use of video and interactive software that is different from the way most online professional development programs use video.

Concord Consortium's Seeing Math Project, in conjunction with PBS TeacherLine have developed an outstanding online professional development program that integrates video and interactive Java software, with online discussion and reflective activities in a facilitator-led scheduled asynchronous environment. The Ready to Teach Algebra materials have been developed as a set of modular units that can be used individually or grouped together to make a longer course. The Java interactives, which help teachers understand the content are also available for teachers to use with their students.

Once the course was built we began a process to better understand how to apply the principles of universal access in order to make the course fully accessible. The process has been interesting and at times frustrating. This session will focus on the issues, philosophy and experience in making the materials accessible.

The panel will be invaluable to anyone thinking about online education and will be a thought provoking experience for anyone that is charged with decision making involving educational technology.

The concepts of universal design began in architecture and have been applied initially to web site design and increasingly to learning situations and particularly educational technology applications. Federal legislation and the proposed reauthorization of IDEA are making the use of universal design principals more important. Universal Design standards move from using a particular adaptive technology to provide access for the learning disabled, to designing learning and assessment products that will have the advantage of serving students with different learning styles as well as those with learning disabilities. (See CAST's Universal Design for Access and Learning: Core Concepts <http://www.cast.org/udl/index.cfm?i=9><http://www.cast.org/udl/index.cfm?i=9>) The first generation of learning applications that incorporate universal design philosophy are becoming commercially available.

Panelists:

Raymond M. Rose, Vice President, Concord Consortium, USA

Ray will provide an overview of the Seeing Math project, the core concepts of universal design, and the federal legislation that encourages and supports universal design.

Joanna Lu, Managing Director, Concord Consortium, USA

Joanna will discuss the production of the online course materials and the universal design issues that are relevant in the general design of online courses, in particular the use of video.

Dr. Robert Tinker, President, Concord Consortium, USA

Bob will focus on the conceptual thinking that has to change when considering how to present information that has formerly been visual into other formats to support the principles of universal design.

Dr. Zahrl Shoeny, Curry School, University of Virginia, USA

Zahrl will take a broader look at the issue of universal design. He will provide a perspective that incorporates his long experience and expertise in auditory learning along with his experience in online education.

Organization of Panel:

Each panelist will make a brief (5 minute) presentation to set the basic understanding of the different issues. The panelists will begin interacting and invite the audience into the discussion. The result is expected to be that the issues raised will bring the audience into the discussion as equal participants, rather than as a chance to interact with a set of experts.