Global Perspectives on Trends, Issues and Challenges
in E-Learning for Teacher Development

Type: *Panel*   **Topic:** *International*

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Discussant: Niki Davis, Iowa State University, USA

Abstract:

The panel session will focus on key topics and issues related to the use of e-Learning for teacher development. The international group of panelists includes chapter authors of a new book commissioned by UNESCO entitled *Teacher Development in an E-Learning Age: A Policy and Planning Guide*. The panelists bring differing perspectives on the dimensions of e-learning and the challenges, policy issues, opportunities and trends in the use of e-learning for teacher development in both developed and developing nations. Discussion will focus on four aspects of e-learning for teacher development including: accessing online resources; online courses and degree programs; blended learning environments; and networked communities. Panelists will share their diverse views of the global context and role of e-learning for teacher development and the challenge of preparing 15-35 million teachers needed in the next 15 years to meet UNESCO's *Education for All* goals.

Panel Organization
Each of the following panelists will make a presentation on a different dimension or issue related to the use of e-learning for teacher development:

Dr. Paul Resta
Global context and issues in the use of e-learning for teacher development
Educational systems around the world are under increasing pressure to use the new information and communication technologies (ICTs) to teach students the knowledge and skills they need in the 21st Century. E-learning is emerging as an important strategy to address the increasingly critical need for preparing and upgrading the knowledge and skills of teachers to use 21st Century tools for learning. This presentation will discuss the context of e-learning for teacher development as one of the many UNESCO initiatives intended to help achieve the goals of *Education for All.*

Dr. Alain Breuleux
McGill University, Quebec City, Canada
Implications of open educational resources for teacher development
The Web has afforded an unprecedented means of accessing and sharing educational resources. What began as informal and personal sharing among educators has now

grown to a worldwide movement of freely shared educational resources, courses, and tools. New structures, organizations, and mechanisms have emerged to support resource sharing, including establishing new gateways and portals to more easily access educational resources and the development of new mechanisms to provide licensing of the materials to others. Each of these trends is part of a larger movement called Open Education Resources. The presentation discusses the implications of the movement toward knowledge sharing and the benefits and implications for teacher development

Dr. Thérèse Laferrière
Laval University, Quebec City, Canada
Issues and strategies for the use of blended learning environments for teacher development
Blended learning environments are on the increase as pressure mounts on faculties and schools of education to prepare teachers for meeting UNESCO's goals as well as the demands of the knowledge society. Blended programs combine onsite and online courses, seminars, and practica in ways that bring more flexibility to teacher learning. Illustrations will be offered, with an emphasis on initiatives, programs and courses that have been evaluated.

Dr. Mary Lamon
Lamon/Teplovs Consulting, Toronto, Canada
The Web has not only provided unique opportunities to build learning communities in online courses but has also helped develop online communities of practice among teachers who share common interests. The online communities provide support to teachers who may feel professionally isolated in rural areas in both developed and developing countries. The critical elements related to developing and supporting online communities of practice among preservice and inservice teachers will be discussed

Dr. Niki Davis
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA
Perspectives and questions in response to presentations.
Dr. Davis will share perspectives related to issues raised by the panelists and guide participant discussion.