

EdMedia Conference 2013

Category: Best Practices

Title: Community of Practice Supporting eLearning

In North America, as in other parts of the world, e-learning is rapidly expanding. Picciano, Seaman, and Allen (2010) acknowledged that “issues regarding the quality of online learning and the level of effort required to develop and teach online courses continue to be of concern at all levels of education leading to the conclusion that more development work needs to be done” (p. 32). Given the need to develop and support quality teaching and learning in online courses, how are promising practices informed by research being used to guide pedagogical practice that leads to quality e-learning experiences? How can an educational institution build the capacity of e-learning instructors?

In 2011, the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary launched an innovative e-Learning Graduate Certificate. The certificate is focused on current research and practice where students inquire into design, development, delivery, and evaluation, as well as, develop a greater understanding of trends in e-learning. The team of instructors supports a community of practice approach. The presenter, the Academic Coordinator for the e-Learning Certificate, will provide an overview of the program, nature of the community of practice work that has occurred over two years, as well as, will share recommendations for best practice.

Reference:

Picciano, A.G., Seaman, J., & Allen, I.E. (2010). Educational transformation through online learning: To be or not to be. *Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks*, 14(4), 17 – 33.
Retrieved from http://apicciano.commons.gc.cuny.edu/files/2011/02/2_jaln14-4_picciano.pdf