**Reflections on the National Educational Technology Standards for (NETS) 2008**

As an Administrator I found myself looking at how well I have enabled my staff to align themselves to these standards. Initially, I realized most of the standards overlap with many of our district goals - if you take out the “digital”! Although our school is quite well equipped – lab, laptops, district email/student records, smartboards - some staff have never used the technology, and the staff that have done excellent work in developing on line resources and virtual environments, and shared these skills, have been very frustrated with poor bandwidth and low connection speeds. Teachers try to model effective use of “digital tools to locate, analyze” information, but with 18 students in the lab the applications cannot load!

We need training, peer and institutional support, as outlined in the excellent article “Faculty Development for the Net Generation” describing Virginia State’s comprehensive support program to guide staff in good pedagogical decisions as they work to integrate technology into their teaching and learning.

I would like to learn more about “Designing and Developing Digital-Age Learning Experiences and Assessments”. At our school this would help our collaborative effort to use the best technology resources to address learning needs, support student creativity, active learning and engagement, the move to independence, and provide meaningful assessment.

By doing my part to model lifelong learning and leadership through doing this MET and bringing back some technical and theoretical skills, I can support others to explore and participate in decisions regarding effective uses of technology in the classroom, create new technology resources. In our remote community I am particularly interested in on-line learning environments and engaging students in real-world activity. Working with people in so many different contexts is a unique opportunity to learn what others are doing, what is effective and why. Out goal is the development of new technology resources and innovative strategies to engage our First Nation students.

**FINAL VERSION: Reflections on the National Educational Technology Standards for (NETS) 2008**

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We need training, peer and institutional support, as outlined in the excellent article “Faculty Development for the Net Generation” describing Virginia State’s comprehensive support program to guide staff in good pedagogical decisions as they work to integrate technology into their teaching and learning.

In this course I would like to learn more about “Designing and Developing Digital-Age Learning Experiences and Assessments”. This is a unique opportunity to learn what others are doing, what is effective and why, based on the experiences of people in very different contexts. This will help our collaborative efforts in our school to use the best technology resources to address learning needs, support student creativity, active learning and engagement, the move to independence, and provide meaningful assessment.

I have been a strong advocate of technology in the district and school, and by doing my part to model lifelong learning and leadership through doing this MET program and bringing back some technical and theoretical skills, I can support teachers to explore and participate in decisions regarding creation of resources, and effective uses of technology in the classroom.

In our remote community I am particularly interested in on-line learning environments as one way to engage our First Nation students in real-world activity, empower them through using technology to preserve language and traditions, and open a door on the world that they are a part of.

Sheila

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