

## Masters of Educational Technology at UBC Entrance Essay

My involvement in the Greater Regional Numeracy Network and the K-12 Mathematics Steering Committee has put me on the front lines of implementing the newest developments in educational learning methods today. One of the most revolutionary developments is Lesson Study, a process of generating, accumulating, sharing, analyzing and refining professional knowledge in teaching. In taking my Masters in Educational Technology I hope to gain the skills necessary to plan and develop an Internet Website dedicated to teachers where they can unite in common study to improve their subject knowledge and teaching skills and where they can access and contribute to a continuously expanding knowledge base about their subject area.

The Website would provide the following services: A Catalog of teacher's lesson plans, insights into teaching practices, exams and evaluation theories, extracurricular information, etc.; A Virtual Classroom on behalf of teachers for chats, discussion forums, webinars, and meetings for study, instruction and mentoring; Video Lessons posted by teachers for other teachers to observe, analyze and refine; and Online links to educational journals and publications pertaining to teaching strategies and methods.

In order to be effective educators, we need access to an interactive website that gives teachers an opportunity to share, collaborate and collectively study their teaching lessons and styles to improve their curricular knowledge and teaching skills across districts and possibly provinces. The Website, operating as a continually updated interactive electronic community of resources, instruction, comment, and study, would provide an "all in one" tool that would enable teachers to work smarter, not harder. Instead of working 18 hours a day reinventing the same lessons, teachers would share their lessons and work together to make improvements.

To successfully implement the Site, it will be necessary to accomplish the following: Convince teachers to use and contribute to the website; Train teachers how to use the technology; and Obtain funding to develop the site. Through Pro-D Days, teachers could be educated about the benefits and uses of the portal and instructed on the technological skills needed to operate within the website. Since this project is a technological version of "lesson study"[a program already funded by the Ministry of Education] and provides a quicker and larger base for study, the ministry may be convinced to give financial support as an extension of the already existing program.

The need to improve education coupled with the rapid increase in resources and theories of education of varying quality cry out to me for a system of cooperation between educators to enable collaborative lesson study and discussion of new resources, teaching tools, technology, and developments in subject areas. Eventually, my professional vision is to expand this Site to include a Student Page accessible by students, parents, and teachers which would consist of: A Students' Forum Page for personal and academic discussion where, for example, students and teachers could answer posted questions about homework; A Search Engine to find specific posts; A Class Page for lessons and assigned homework; and An Assessment Page accessible by password for students, parents and teachers to access marked assignments, scored tests, grades and attendance.