2008-04-10 OSC NEWS: Challenging IT Leaders to Mashup, Twitter, Tag, and Poke (EDUCAUSE)

Challenging IT Leaders to Mashup, Twitter, Tag, and Poke: New IT Strategies for a Digital Society. Susan Metros, Deputy CIO, University of Southern California

2008 Midwest Regional Conference Opening General Session

Notes:

This session has been recorded and is available for podcast at http://connect.educause.edu/blog/gbayne/podcastchallengingitleade/46499.

Metros slides are available in pdf at http://www.educause.edu/upload/presentations/MWRC08/GS01/Metros%20EDUCAUSE%20Midwest.pdf

An outstanding and energetic speaker, Susan Metros offered a thought-provoking discussion of what it means to transform the things we do in support of new learners and general education as well as our faculty's teaching and research.

Her initial premise was that General Education is not on people's radar screens and she asked the following questions:

- Who are out students?
- What does it take to be literate?
- What we can do about it?

She put these is the context of:

- Historical perspectives
- Preservation of knowledge
- Promoting inquiry

Modern higher education institutions have strategic visions that we can explore. At her new home at USC, the vision includes meeting societal needs, expanding global presence and its impact, and promoting learner-centered education. At her previous institution, Ohio State, it was to create a more diverse university community and build Ohio's future. At Maricopa Community College the vision is access to programs and services.

What does it mean to be a literate human society?

The dictionary definition says the ability to read and write but it is so much more, especially today: economic, cultural, visual, information, media, scientific, politics and even more…. Students are stewards of knowledge with their own set of core values. Today's youth are digitally titillated, visually stimulated, and socially connected. They are information seekers, communicators, collaborators – and are multi-taskers who want random access. They are networked and have instant gratification needs.

A recent survey indicates that the majority of students own laptops and have music/video players

- 24% primary wireless
- 80% use collaboration tools
- 76% download music or video
- 83% use a CMS
- 56% say convenience is important

…and they do not like heavily IT driven courses.

Metros suggested 6 principles and asked "what can IT leaders do to deploy a campus-wide IT strategy supporting these values?"

1) Possess core communication and quantitative (sometimes also qualitative) skills:

- Reading and writing - visual expression
- Speak and listen (communication)
- Perform quantitative analysis
- Social networking and collaboration tool use– Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Blogger, Flickr, Gmail, RSS feeds, email - as IT professionals, will we embrace these tools or not? [USC went to Google apps - in doing so there was a lot of work to be done. Students now must accept privacy information, create Google passwords, choose where to deliver their USC mail -- lots to put it into place but they know students are using the social networking tools.
- Communication and quantitative skills in undergraduate research, doing "research on research"
- Undergraduate students with faculty in e-partnerships, do a portfolio that shares the process and products with colleagues, industry, etc.

2) Critical Thinking: the ability to analyze information and use it appropriately

LMS or CMS, everybody has them and they provide a participatory culture. We are working to add sophistication, assessment, and more. At a recent EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative event there was a conversation on "Is CMS so 2005?" With Web 2.0 options there are other options, ie, courses on Facebook. The Faculty doesn't design it but the student does. These tools allow faculty to reach students where they are.

Another example she offered was Google classes. Microsoft thought Sharepoint would be the killer application and when Apple just announced an iPhone software roadmap, programs began to be submitted immediately. She asked: can we do courses on the phone?

There is a participatory culture in critical thinking: Ohio State's Digital Union is a gathering place, and a place for new media production, showcases, workshops learning communities, emerging technology test beds, multi-disciplinary research and more. At USC they have an institute for multimedia literacy where they do research on the changing nature of literacy, teaching production, programs in scholarship.

3) Integrates and applies knowledge: Knowledge sharing – astronomy 112 class recorded by a student and made them available. They garnered attention from around the world. USC has an iTunes channel with 12 sub-channels (8 more coming) with 900 subscribers. The schools are doing this rather than the central IT unit.

4) Intellectual breadth, depth, and adaptive-ness: Discipline specific collections, the long tail of collections, many of them are in the library but there are many more within a faculty member's personal private space. How can we help faculty to produce these and provide a web media collective for discipline specific collections? There are new ways to teach and learn, not much has changed in the millennia, so many things need to change now. Exchange of information is wanted rather than "telling me" your information. Experiential learning, multimedia and more are important.

Benchmarks for this should be:

- level of academic challenge
- active and collaborative learning
- student / faculty interaction
- enriching educational experiences
- supportive campus environment

Illustrations included the New Media Consortium's Pachyderm (http://www.nmc.org/pachyderm/)

Learning spaces – we have a shift from carts to AV wall boxes and camera equipped classrooms. However, we are doing these in old spaces and we need new spaces including virtual space: Croquet, Second Life, etc. USC is hiring a director of learning spaces and those spaces will be formal, informal, virtual and more.

5) Understand diverse societies and cultures: In this age of global connections, how do we support international education? She mentioned the Internet2 megaconference with Bob Dixon via video-conferencing and the Ohio Supercomputer Center's transportable satellite system.

At the local level she talked about the outreach of Eva Bradshaw of Ohio State in starting "Gidget," a technology pipeline for girls – see http://www.gogidget.org/. Metros also talked about partnerships with learners, staff, both centralized and decentralized, faculty, other campus institutions, as well as community and industry partners.

Uphold values and ethics: Metros said we are always fighting an uphill battle, in reactive mode, in this area and suggested that we need to help our students, staff, and others with credibility, validity, and ethical implications. She said that faculty don't always have the context so we must not start with tools, but rather with goals. Goal->Process->Product (tool)

She suggests new IT strategies for a digital society

Goal = convenience, collaboration, communication, engagement, interaction, mobility, accessibility, literacy, accountability, security, effectiveness, and efficiency.

1) Adopt new teaching and learning configurations and formats

2) Manage knowledge

3) Extend education's reach

4) Build communication and collaboration pathways

5) Develop and adopt new and emerging IT processes and tools

6) Be a conscientious local and global citizen.

http://connect.educause.edu/blog/llarsen/noteschallengingitleaders/46572?time=1208353968

2008-04-10 OSC NEWS: Environment Web-Conference Today (environmentastic!)

Environment Web-Conference Today!

Posted by A. Caleb Hartley on April 10th, 2008 filed in conference, environment

Nation's top public health experts gather for web conference on environment

Researchers at The Ohio State University College of Public Health have gathered some of the nation's top experts in public health and the environment for a Web-based conversation on the current state of our planet's health, as a part of National Public Health Week, April 7-13.

"Converging Environmental Crises" is a Web-based conference featuring more than a dozen health and environmental experts who will provide live and recorded presentations on topics such as global warming, overpopulation and energy depletion.

The conference, facilitated by the Ohio Supercomputer Center, will occur online at http://sg60.oar.net <http://sg60.oar.net/> from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 10. It will be based in Columbus and link to sites around the U.S. and Canada.

For more information, please see the PDF posted at http://cph.osu.edu/webcast.

Presenters include:

- Roscoe Bartlett, Republican congressman from Maryland and co-chair of Peak Oil Caucus
- Dan Bednarz, PhD, Energy & Healthcare Consultants, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Jason Bradford, PhD, population biologist and founder of Willits Economic Localization, Willits, Calif.
- Kristin Bradford, MD, Little Lake Health Center, Willits, Calif.

- William Catton, Jr., PhD, emeritus professor of sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.
- Mac Crawford, PhD, assistant professor, OSU College of Public Health's Division of Environmental Health Sciences, Columbus
- Dick Jackson, PhD, director of the Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- Joel Kreisberg, DC, MA, Teleosis Institute, Berkeley, Calif.
- Walt Lierman, PhD, economic consultant, Portland, Ore.
- Jessica Pierce, PhD, bioethicist, Longmont, Colo.
- Ken Smail, PhD, professor emeritus of Anthropology, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio
- Don Spady, MD, associate professor of pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics and Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta
- Terry Tamminen, former director of the California Environmental Protection Agency, author and strategist on energy and the environment
- Gail Tverberg, actuary, Tverberg Actuarial Services, Atlanta, Ga., and analyst for TheOilDrum.com

The OSU College Public Health is an integral part of the most comprehensive health sciences campus in the nation. The college was created in February 2007 when the University Board of Trustees elevated us from a school to a college. First established in 1995 as part of the College of Medicine, we are the first and only accredited school of
public health in the state of Ohio. Specializations within the college include biostatistics, epidemiology, health behavior and health promotion, environmental health sciences, health services management and policy, veterinary public health and clinical investigations. The college is currently ranked 21st in public health graduate schools by US News & World Report. Its Master of Health Administration program is ranked 12th. The College of Public Health makes a difference in the health of the public, advances knowledge through multidisciplinary research and education, and reaches out with knowledge, service and leadership to Ohio and the world.

Namaste,
A. Caleb Hartley

http://www.environmentastic.com/blog/environment-web-conference-today/2008/04/10/