



Best Practices - Student Teaching Technology Transformation Initiative: A Dean's Perspective



*Home of
the Mustangs*

Western New Mexico University



WNMU: a context...

Western New Mexico University (WNMU), a public comprehensive regional University located primarily in Silver City, New Mexico, was established by the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico in the spring of 1893, as one of the Normal Schools of New Mexico with a focus on preparing teachers.

Currently, WNMU provides certificate, associate, baccalaureate and Masters level programs, in a variety of disciplines on multiple campuses.

WNMU serves more than 4,000 students with a dual community college and University mission via face-2-face, ITV, and online instruction. WNMU is considered a Hispanic Serving Institution with a School of Education committed to the recruitment and retention of students. The SOE serves over 1200 students in 22 programs and graduates about 120-150 completers of diverse backgrounds.





We're WNMU SOE...

- WNMU is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission of Colleges and Schools: North Central Association and is an AQIP University.
- The SOE is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
 - Reaccreditation visit this upcoming spring 2011. We are piloting the Continuous Improvement Option.
 - We received the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) Best Practice Award in Support of Teacher Education Quality and Accountability.





We're WNMU SOE ...

The Transformation Project:

- The WNMU School of Education is piloting a new initiative with this year's (2010-2011) student teachers.
- We have taught technology integration in all of our programs. However, we haven't fully supported the integration of technology in the teaching and learning process for our student teachers once they walk out our doors. We have moved from a laptop lending program to a "bundling" of technology equipment, hardware and software.





School of Education

How it began for the SOE:

- We received special appropriation funding from the NM legislature to develop online programs.
- I started a laptop lending program when I arrived as Dean in 2006.
- I developed a renewal and replacement plan for technology infrastructure in the SOE.
- We work with IT to refurbish and rebuild old laptops, dropped WAPs throughout our building, installed a smart classroom with a smart board, ITV capability, document camera, self-tracking cameras, lcd projectors, high definition 52 inch lcd monitors, and internet capability.



School of Education

The following **SEVEN factors** should be in place for a technology transformation initiative:

- 1) **Inspiration** – Our Director of Field Experiences, Dr. Shirley Weaver came to me with an idea. She wanted to write a grant to better support our student teachers in May of 2010.
 - 1) **Lack of technology** - Dr. Shirley Weaver was concerned about the variety/or lack thereof of technology hardware and software in the school districts.
 - 2) **Modeling** – How could our student teachers implement some of the ideas, techniques, and efficiency of delivery if they couldn’ t integrate technology in their classrooms?
- 2) **Flexibility**: I had some technology money that needed to be spent by June 30, 2010. I also had student fee money. I had earmarked these monies for the purchase of more laptops for our student laptop lending program.



School of Education

The following **SEVEN factors** should be in place for a technology transformation initiative:

3) **Administrative Support:** I completely supported this effort. I let our Provost know I was changing my focus from laptops for the laptop lending program to “technology bundles” for our student teachers. She agreed this was a great idea! We decided we would pilot this idea with the Silver campus student teachers fall 2010 and spring 2011. For the next academic year, we would bring our Gallup campus on board.

4) **University Infrastructure:**

4) SOE Office and Office of Field Experiences

5) IT - quotes

6) Accounts Payable

7) Business Office

8) Outside vendors

Needed a quick turn-around....



School of Education

The following **SEVEN factors** should be in place for a technology transformation initiative:

5) **Continuous support, reflection, and student follow through** – OK, so you have your technology bundle... Now what? Dr. Weaver meets with student teachers on a weekly basis, both f2f and online. They reflect on what they are doing, how they are doing it, and why. She also meets with the Clinical faculty or on-site cooperating teachers four times a semester simultaneously with the student teachers.

6) **Planning** – Front-end planning...

7) **Students** – Willingness on the student's part to engage in a different model than the traditional one.





School of Education

Lessons Learned: Think about the following issues prior to implementation:

- Planning,
- Institutional processes with different offices,
- Evaluation model for the project.
- School district issues – i.e., internet firewalls...



School of Education

Student Success Stories:

- Piloting with 28 student teachers:
 - Technology Bundles usage – a laptop, a 2nd generation flip camera with video capability, an lcd projector, a printer, an embedded web cam in the laptop, a tripod for the camera, an external web cam (certain laptops didn't have the embedded webcam), and embedded software.
 - Love it! They are using their technology hardware and software for: lesson planning, instruction, assessment, communication, presentations, and postings.



Western New Mexico University

- I have described how one school of education went from chalkboards to smart boards in the preparation of a new generation of educators for America's schools. By employing technology successfully, we know we can improve the way we prepare our present and future educators and their students. At the WNMU SOE, we are doing that!
- Questions?

Gracias por su atención...



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