Reflections on 2021 and Aspirations for 2022 from Digital Learning Leaders and Learners

Excerpted chat from January 20, 2022, webcast

Thank you for joining us for today's WCET webcast!

You can download the slides here: https://wcet.wiche.edu/resources/aspirations-for-2022-slides

11:08:12 Kim Nawrocki: Carrie wrote a blog on The Heart of the Learner, out today on WCET Frontiers. Check it out here: https://wcetfrontiers.org/2022/01/20/the-heart-of-the-learner/

11:10:36 Shelli Wynants: Thanks, Kiara - you are advocating for Open Educational Resources!

11:14:35 Heather McCullough: This topic is incredibly timely for work we are doing at UNC Charlotte. We're looking at improving cost transparency for students prior to registration so students know the full cost of course materials prior to registering. We know several systems and institutions that have implemented solutions for this issue.

11:14:50 Megan Raymond: What do you in the audience see as the ideal learning experience in 2022?

11:15:25 Carly Brady: Ideal learning experience = flexibility to attend in-person or remotely.

11:15:30 Jennifer Seymour: Yes! Cost transparency is so important.

11:16:02 Kiara Williams: Students tend to lose motivation and hope when they continuously have to jump through hoops to achieve and engage in higher education. We should always reflect and see how we can make this experience better for students, especially those facing systemic and financial barriers in addition to something as heavy as a pandemic.

11:17:11 Heather Rane: Exactly diverse learners are going to college and then within their careers they will be constantly upscaling their skills

11:17:13 Judith Sebesta: Ideal learning experience = effective, high-quality instruction REGARDLESS of modality.

11:19:25 Luke Dowden: "Solve with Students" - yes - yes - yes

11:20:10 Luke Dowden: Opportunities for durable skills practice and attainment is equity work!

11:21:32 Kiara Williams: Every Learner Everywhere did an amazing job at providing students opportunities to be a part of the change, sit at the table, and *a lot* of development— Not just professional development, but also development as humans working with a diverse and global community. I am very grateful!

11:21:35 John Holdcroft: I have noticed the challenges of working with the "digital Natives in the 18-25 age range" with our digital textbook platform alongside the "professional and applied students"- who have different learning and reading styles and comforts

11:23:20 Shelli Wynants: Designing courses with more authentic assessments

11:23:58 Luke Dowden: That is great news Kiara! The question we all want to know it was Pounce as effective as promoted?

11:24:36 Megan Raymond: Great question Luke, the Pounce data is compelling but what do the students think? @Kiara?

11:24:53 Heather McCullough: Our Learning, Design, and Technology program has a wonderful capstone program and the students design training solutions. Our Center for Teaching and Learning has used them to great effect. We try to publicize their work and incorporate it into our curriculum of faculty training.

11:25:04 Jon Wilmesherr: Could be as simple as shadowing in different fields.

11:25:21 John Holdcroft: We work with the University of Phoenix and Grand Canyon for their content, and they are very focused on creating "stackable credentials" and the "badging" system which they establish with their industry partners, as does WSU Tech

11:25:50 Judith Sebesta: We are working to help our member colleges explore virtual 3D SIM trainings for career and technical education programs.

11:26:30 Luke Dowden: What are you hearing about micro-internships? Companies like Forage? Parker Dewey? Are these companies helping with the "supply" issue of these important learning experiences?

11:26:30 Judith Sebesta: Interplay Learning is one example (just an example — we are not currently working with them).

11:26:34 Kiara Williams: @ Luke, I think our lovely Pounce gave me incredible luck. And paired with some hard work, and a pinch of dedication…. I feel unstoppable 😊

11:28:54 Kim Nawrocki: The internship program Jessica referred to: https://nbafoundation.nba.com/hbcu-fellowship/

11:29:01 Shelli Wynants: And what about students who graduated and didn't get any internship opportunities because of COVID and now can't get any because the workforce wants students to be enrolled in courses to qualify for the internship. How we can help recent graduates should also be something institutions should examine.

11:29:14 Megan Raymond: Pounce is also a chatbot but clearly, it's not as popular

11:31:23 Kiara Williams: Pounce, the chatbot, gave us students something to laugh about. The equivalent of automated systems when we call tech support, but… cooler 😎

11:36:42 Christine Bauer: @Jennifer: could you share a link to the micro-internship platform you mentioned?

11:37:19 Jennifer Seymour: https://info.parkerdewey.com/kansasmicrointerns

11:40:37 Luke Dowden: I observe HyFlex is a reboot of Compressed Video of the 1990s before asynchronous online won out.

11:42:21 Russ Poulin: EdSource cited UC Riverside as investing in hyflex equipment (though they did not call it that) and then cited remote-learning research and called it online-learning research. Sigh. https://edsource.org/2022/new-classrooms-at-uc-riverside-let-students-attend-remotely-or-in-person/665026

11:42:45 Tanya Joosten: Faculty development and intentional design are keys for quality more than outfitted classrooms.

11:43:42 Megan Raymond: WCET Member Summit in April is all about high-quality digital learning and will cover many of these topics

11:44:10 Russ Poulin: Yup. Edsource did not mention what was going on with developing faculty to make it work.

11:44:38 Kim Nawrocki: The Summit registration is open! Program coming soon, stay tuned. https://bit.ly/wcet-summit-2022

11:44:46 Tanya Joosten: Faculty need incentives too!

11:44:52 Kiara Williams: It is very interesting how much the mental/emotional health conversations are overlooked when it comes to "keys to success". Those are also important, as it affects the rest of our relationships and interactions with the world.

11:45:09 Heather McCullough: We also find that partnering with department and college leadership to develop and deliver training helps move the needle a little more efficiently

11:45:30 Tanya Joosten: Sadly, cares money on proctoring

11:46:14 Shelli Wynants: More community of practices for faculty professional development!

11:47:12 Heather Rane: Thank you for bringing up defining the words that seem to have varied meanings, reliance on assumptions is released for common ground communications. There are different skills needed for a hybrid and online course instruction. And I appreciate the whole employee being provided professional development.

11:47:23 Megan Raymond: What questions do you have for our conversationalists? Please add them to Q&A and we'll jump into those

11:48:25 Luke Dowden: Agree with Kelvin - Yes - we have to build stamina for empathy - which has many derivative benefits beyond our immediate teams, colleagues, families.

11:49:09 Ling Thompson: What are some strategies to motivate faculty to attend professional development? Our professional development attendance has been really low.

11:49:23 Russ Poulin: WCET Steering Committee has identified the terminology issue as one to tackle this year.

11:50:17 Carly Brady: Good question @ling thompson. Our faculty seem to view some of our PD offerings as "one more thing" when they're already feeling overwhelmed.

11:50:22 Heather McCullough: @Ling our faculty development has waned in the last months, and I think everyone is just tired. We notice that faculty really appreciate our self-paced trainings and we also find our certificates are popular and generate attendance.

11:51:17 Jennifer Seymour: @Ling, we tied it to already schedule "required" in-service activities and annual performance evaluations - so all institutional goals focused on professional development topics

11:51:45 Luke Dowden: @Ling we are offering less and more focused trainings / options and explaining the "why" and "how" it benefits faculty.

11:53:14 Heather Rane: Excellent John, knowing the learner is so important...I still listen as learn and read as I learn :)

11:54:08 Ling Thompson: Do we get a copy of the chat too with the recording? I didn't get a chance to write down the ideas from earlier postings.

11:54:29 Megan Raymond: Yes Ling, we'll clean it up and share it out with a link to the recording

11:54:52 Luke Dowden: "Materialized here with no past" - one of the quotes of the day

11:57:05 Luke Dowden: +1 Carrie fan of intentional outreach and personalization

11:57:12 Kelvin Thompson: excellent "invitational" idea @Carrie!

11:58:31 Kiara Williams: More parting words— A lot of answers often lie in where we went wrong. And instead of closing chapters and allowing them to collect dust, or just say that it didn't work and start completely anew, we need to look at the downfalls, reflect on the areas of opportunity, and truly think about growth and where we want to be! Thank you all for joining us today!