

Leadership in Technology



February 21, 2006

Proposal Overview

The USOE Leadership in Technology working group has designed a set of experiences for Utah district leadership teams to address three focus areas highlighted in the 2005 Legislative Audit called Best Practices in Using Technology in Public Education - Professional Development, Access, and Technical Support.

Background Rationale

The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory NCREL issued a report called "Technology Leadership: Enhancing Positive Educational Change" The beginning of the report says, "Knowledgeable and effective school leaders are extremely important in determining whether technology use will improve learning for all students. Many school administrators may be uncomfortable providing leadership in technology areas, however. They may be uncertain about implementing effective technology leadership strategies in ways that will improve learning, or they may believe their own knowledge of technology is inadequate to make meaningful recommendations. Because technology is credited as being a significant factor in increasing productivity in many industries, some people believe that more effective use of technology in schools could do more to improve educational opportunities and quality. Research indicates that while there are poor uses of technology in education, appropriate technology use can be very beneficial in increasing educational productivity (Byrom & Bingham, 2001; Clements & Sarama, 2003;

Mann, Shakeshaft, Becker, & Kottkamp, 1999; Valdez, McNabb, Foertsch, Anderson, Hawkes, & Raack, 2000; Wenglinsky, 1998)." <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/educatrs/leadrsdp/le700.htm>

Need for Action

The Utah Public Education Technology Plan section on Professional Competency calls for administrators who "understand, believe in, and demonstrate commitment to classroom technology use for enhancing instruction and productivity." For local administrators to model and implement the use of technology, district and school administrators need to provide leadership in appropriate use of technology and they provide their staff with professional development that includes appropriate technology integration.

Proposal

The Leadership in Technology professional development project addresses the need for vision and understanding of how educational technology impacts and can improve student achievement. The project includes leaders from each district who participate in a set of activities with supplemental audio outreach.

The District Leadership Teams include the superintendent of each district with an elementary and a secondary principal for a total of 3 people from each district.

The experiences include:

Vision: McREL event - March 2

Capacity Building: UCET leadership strand sessions - March 10

Functional Understanding: Site visits at demonstration classrooms - April - May

Champion Development: Hands-on experience followed by round-table discussions - June or July

As an incentive to participate, each team member receives an iPod video preloaded with eMedia videos and some leadership audio. The intent is to include the audio from The World is Flat also.

Each of the experiences will be recorded and then delivered via podcast RSS feeds to the team members to remind administrators of the important topics covered during each of the experiences. Additionally, we'll have occasional extra podcasts from the working group team.

Accountability

The working group team will develop a pre and post assessment to be administered in On Track to measure change in vision.

To monitor participation, the working group team will measure audio downloads of PD sessions and proactively reach out to district leadership teams to assure they are able to download and sync those sessions.

We'll also compile the content of the round-table discussion.

Budget

All travel and lodging is the responsibility of the district leadership teams.

McREL kick-off event - provided at no cost by McREL \$0

On Track Assessment tool pre and post - provided at no cost by USOE \$0

UCET Leadership kick-off event breakfast 120 leadership team members and 10 support staff \$780

UCET supplies - handouts and blank CDs \$400

UCET Leadership Team Incentives - iPods with training during breakfast pre-loaded with audio and eMedia videos along with a CD with the contents so they can reload after syncing- 120 \$35,880

UCET Leadership sessions - \$50 to UCET for each attendee - 120 \$6,000

USOE audio creation station (Powerbook for Ray with Griffin iMic supplied by Kathy's budget) \$0

USOE podcast server and software (no cost) \$0

Site visits - a choice of one of eight opportunities - approximately 15 attendees at each opportunity \$400 supplies

Site visit lunches - 154 total \$1,386

Round table discussions \$400 supplies

Round table lunches - 130 total \$1,170

Total: approximately \$46,500

This budget has each Leadership Team member paying their own travel and lodging for each of the experiences.