



PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Chris Dede Meeting Notes

Meeting:

- Date: 2/10/04
- Location: Harvard Graduate School of Education
- P21: Diny Golder and Susan Saltrick
- Key contact name: Chris Dede
- Title: Ed Advisor and Professor, HGSE
- Email: chris_dede@harvard.edu
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OBJECTIVES

- Purpose: guidance on year 2 deliverables

KEY MESSAGES relating to:

Step 5: Professional Development

- Chris discussed his work with the National Commission on Teaching in America's Future. His current interests are in distributed learning communities for teachers: "it's not good enough anymore to just do face-to-face professional development."
- He also talked about his work with the Milwaukee schools on the use of 21st century tools to provide professional support, especially for new teachers. The aim here is to improve the retention rate of new teachers (currently in Milwaukee, 50% of new teachers don't make it through first 5 years)
- Chris also noted the "bootstrap challenge" of teachers needing to have 21st century skills themselves in order to teach them. He commented that the technical challenge is not the significant one, it's more attitudinal.
- He advocates a "Trojan mouse" (evolutionary) approach -- start with simple tools, e.g., an IM connection among teachers
- Chris feels we're at a transition point in the evolution of distributed learning tools – lots of good independent tools are available, but the integrated suites of tools are too compromised. "We're waiting for the MS Office suite for distributed learning."
- "The hard part in distributed learning is to make what people experience online compelling enough so that they are motivated to stay online."

FOLLOW UP

- Contacts (individuals, organizations): He suggests we look at EDC's online teacher developments courses – two in particular, "Teaching Online" and "Data-driven Decision Making" Kristen Peterson at EDC is responsible for these. (617-618-2780)

- Resources/links: Chris sent us a paper, “High Tech Support for New Teacher Retention in Urban Schools” for our database (sent separately).
- Chris can’t make it to the Forum: can he participate virtually? Need to follow up.