



PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Don Leu Conference Call

Forum:

- Date: 2/18/04
- P21 participants: Diny Golder, Jennifer Himmelstein, Susan Saltrick

Host organization contact info

- Key contact name: Don Leu
- Title: P21 ed advisor, professor at University of Connecticut
- Email: donald.leu@uconn.edu
- Phone:

OBJECTIVES

- Purpose: guidance on Year 2 deliverables

KEY MESSAGES relating to:

ICT Literacy

- Don counsels us that ICT Literacy needs to be seen as part of foundational literacy, that is, integrated within basic literacy teaching (reading instruction). The skills and strategies of literacy are common to both print and electronic media, so should be taught in concert. These skills are: identifying information, searching for information, synthesizing information, and communicating problems & solutions.
- Don noted that for many teachers 'tech literacy' means technology in support of traditional literacy – he instead says we need to have more fluid view of all literacy, both print and online forms
- Feels that the reading specialist community needs to be active participant in the ICT literacy movement (this is not the case now)

Assessment

- Don is concerned about the state of online testing – not one state is using word processing technology to assess writing skills, yet this is the way most kids write today – there is evidence (Boston College) that student performance in writing is negatively affected when they are forced to produce handwritten text to assess their writing ability.
- Don spoke about some states' requirement that only print textbooks be used – this issue needs to be addressed at the policy level

Equity

- How do we avoid making 21st century skills yet another barrier to the underserved kids in our schools?
 - Don notes that kids who are most at risk are the ones who are most powerfully engaged by technology
 - He advocates teaching the new literacies to at-risk kids FIRST, then have them take a leadership role in the classroom to teach their peers – “make

them the experts” They gain in self-esteem, which helps them succeed in other academic endeavors

- Don calls for more research: “we still don’t have much compelling data on the usefulness of technology as a means of achieving student success in traditional subjects”

FOLLOW UP

- Resources/links: Don sent a chapter from his forthcoming book, but permission from his publisher would have to be obtained before we can post
- Next steps: Could one of the interns follow up with Don on the permissions issue?