



Ohio Digital Commons for Education 2008

The Convergence of Learning, Libraries and Technology Conference

March 2-4, 2008

Pre-conference Workshops: **March 2, 2008**

Call for Presentations, Workshops and Demonstrations of Innovation

The Ohio Digital Commons for Education partners – Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK, and the Ohio Supercomputer Center/OSCnet - invite you to submit proposals for the Convergence of Learning, Libraries and Technology Conference, March 2-4, 2008 (the “ODCE Conference”). The ODCE Conference features both submitted and invited presentations, technology demonstrations, pre-conference workshops and plenary presentations. Proposals for presentations in a number of content areas are sought and described below. In addition to the specific topics listed under each broad category, we strongly encourage proposals that represent effective use of educational technology, teaching and learning paradigms, efficient organization and dissemination of information, and innovations in education. **Deadline to submit a proposal is October 30, 2007.**

ODCE expects that presenters in all conference venues will provide dynamic and provocative learning opportunities for attendees, be cognizant of adult learning preferences, address ADA and Section 508 Accessibility standards, and effectively model the utilization of learning technologies. Far too often conference sessions involve the overuse of presentation software. ODCE seeks conference sessions that are interactive and engage the participants. The presentation selection criteria strongly favor presentations that demonstrably engage participants.

Conference Sessions

Abstracts for conference sessions are sought for the following themes. Each submission will be peer reviewed. Presentations selected will best serve the themes of the conference and the needs of the learners.

Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century

This theme addresses the core mission of our educational system and should provide conference participants with exemplary models and discussions regarding excellence in education. Topics included (but not limited to) are: pedagogy (particularly as it relates to instructional technology), achievable learning objectives, assessment and evaluation, and skills development for the 21st century educator. Presentations targeted to both experienced and new educators are welcome.

Your proposal might answer these questions:

- How can we assure that competency based outcomes will satisfy accreditation requirements?
- Is it possible to redesign a large lecture course to better meet the needs of students?
- What do faculty new to instructional technology need to know to use it effectively?
- Can all virtual environments provide authentic learning experiences?
- How can organizations efficiently manage availability and access to relevant digital content?

Student Success

Our educational institutions and infrastructure exist to serve our students; how are we doing? This theme addresses programs and initiatives designed to serve students well. Topics will include (but are not limited to): mentoring and tutoring, first year experiences, student learning communities, documenting knowledge, and providing opportunities to under-served populations.

Can you answer:

- How do you effectively manage a peer tutoring / teaching program?
- Are student learning communities successful? If so, where's the evidence?
- Have student success plans made a difference to student achievement?
- What does it take to develop a relevant, cost-effective first year experience?
- Do students know how to avoid plagiarism? Do they care?
- Are students prepared to be successful in the types of careers that the state needs?

Moving Ohio Forward

Ohio needs to dramatically increase the number of students who attend, succeed, and graduate with a degree that counts. New funding, political support, and alignments at the state level promise tuition restraint, increased collaborations, focused missions, and system efficiencies. The University System of Ohio calls on the public colleges and universities to unite under one banner, focus on common goals, while retaining individual identities. On campus, changes in information technology, resources and student demographics are creating significant changes in how educational opportunities are developed and delivered. This theme addresses programs and collaborations designed to serve the state well. Topics will include (but are not limited to): effective business / academic partnerships that serve more Ohioans, collaborations between K-12 and higher ed that serve demonstrated state needs, strengthening ties between Ohio's colleges and universities, programs that remove barriers for adult learners, and addressing educational needs of the Ohio workforce.

Example questions that presentations around this theme might address include:

- How will the new University System of Ohio help more Ohioans?
- What does it take for us to share content, students, faculty, technology, and practices across institutions?
- How can we provide relevant access to programs regardless of location or income?
- How will tuition restraint impact the state known as "one of the most expensive places" to earn a college education?
- How do we pave the avenues for recent high school graduates or adult learners into the higher education system?

Transforming Technologies

This theme acknowledges the impact that technology has on our campuses and in our lives. From ubiquitous connectivity (for some) to technology-mediated social networks, the advances and pervasiveness of technology will continue to bring changes to our educational systems. Topics in this theme will include (but are not limited to): emerging technologies, virtual environments for learning, gaming / visualization, and security.

Example questions that presentations around this theme might address include:

- Is podcasting as effective in meeting learning outcomes as the traditional lecture?
- What do high definition displays offer that is not possible otherwise?

- Can gaming improve learning in measurable ways?
- Do virtual environments and social networking provide learning experiences unavailable in the classroom?
- What does it take for campus IT to keep up in order to provide both opportunities for learning and information security?

Non-traditional Presentations: A Challenge and an Opportunity

The 2007 ODCE Conference featured a non-traditional track to encourage presentations that were “outside the box” with the intent to more completely engage and involve participants. This year we hope to extend this approach by incorporating non-traditional formats within each presentation theme. While a lecture style presentation can be informative and appropriate for some topics, it is our hope that many of the presentations within the tracks will adopt innovative approaches and techniques that will encourage engagement and enhance the level of discussion.

In particular, the program committee is actively seeking proposals for “blank easel” presentations for 2008 for up to 10 presentation slots. These facilitated discussion sessions will feature a presenter / moderator (1-3 people) who will introduce a topic of relevance (and perhaps discussion points or an outline for discussion) and then engage all willing participants in a conversation around the topic. The sessions could describe and debate various futures for Ohio education, support and attack various instructional solutions to recurring educational problems, or offer new educational models that can be defended against the status quo. After all, the idea is “a blank easel” filled by session’s end with provocative thoughts and calls to action.

Individuals interested in presenting in this format are encouraged to contact the track chairs with questions, suggestions, and fabulous, contentious ideas. Steve Acker: acker.1@osu.edu / Eugene Rutz: eugene.rutz@uc.edu

What’s the Buzz? – Vendor Presentations

New technologies and new partnerships are making possible approaches to learning and assessment that most of us can only just imagine. Companies that work with Ohio institutions are invited to present innovations that will benefit educators and students. Of particular interest are presentations that demonstrate new approaches towards achieving educational goals and inform the educational community of what can be accomplished. There are a limited number of presentation slots available so proposals will be peer reviewed to select the topics that best fit the themes of the conference.

Hands-On Workshops

The conference provides a variety of opportunities for participants to develop new competencies in emerging areas of instructional technology. Pre-conference workshops provide a significant opportunity for this type of activity. Proposals are sought for topics to be presented in hands-on workshops during which participants will gain tangible new skills. Workshops are typically four to six hours in duration, are held the Sunday afternoon and evening prior to the main conference and provide significant interaction and learning for the participants.

Workshop topics that fit the theme of the conference are sought. The following suggested topics can serve as examples of workshop themes:

- Instructional design that incorporates technology-enabled content
- Jumpstart on using social networks and / or virtual environments
- Using podcasting to engage diverse learners
- Meaningful learning in virtual worlds

The main criteria for a workshop is that participants are provided the opportunity to develop a skill they can put to use immediately at their home institution.

Innovation Island

Innovation Island showcases innovations in pedagogy, applications of technology, non-traditional collaborations, and student services. Participants on the Island will **demonstrate innovations** and encourage **conversation** among participants. Attendees will take home not only good ideas but also an understanding of what it takes to implement the innovation. Presentations on Innovation Island are designed to be informal and interactive.

This year Innovation Island invites you to sit, relax, and talk with a colleague or two. The Island is the place where discussions around specific topics of interest can occur throughout the conference.

Submitting a Proposal

Proposals are being accepted for session presentations, workshops, and/or demonstrations of innovation.

To be a part of this growing conference, complete and submit a program proposal application on the conference web site at:

<http://www.oln.org/conferences/ODCE2008>

The web site contains more detailed information about the conference and proposal submission. Session presentations are scheduled to be no longer than one hour, including time set aside for audience questions and engagement.

Please Note

Videotaping and Web Casting: Conference sessions may be videotaped or web cast simultaneously and may be archived for later educational use.

Conference Attendance: All presenters must register for the conference and pay registration fees for the conference. Online registration will be available in December 2007.

Interactive Presentations: Conference sessions that are exclusively lecture are discouraged! The conference committee strongly encourages presenters to involve the participants to the extent appropriate for all presentations. Examples of session formats that facilitate participant engagement include panel presentations, discussion-based sessions, and presentations that include hands-on activities for participants.

Resources for Participants:

Deadlines

Proposal Submission: October 30, 2007

Please note - NO EXTENSIONS THIS YEAR!

Notification: December 3, 2007

Presentation Materials Submitted: February 15, 2008

While formal papers are not required, presenters are highly encouraged to submit materials that provide participants additional opportunities to learn about the topic.

All submissions, notifications, and other correspondence will be sent via the Internet.

Questions:

Questions regarding the Call for Proposals: ODCE2008CALL@oln.org

General Questions regarding the conference: ODCE2008INFO@oln.org

or call 614.995.3240.