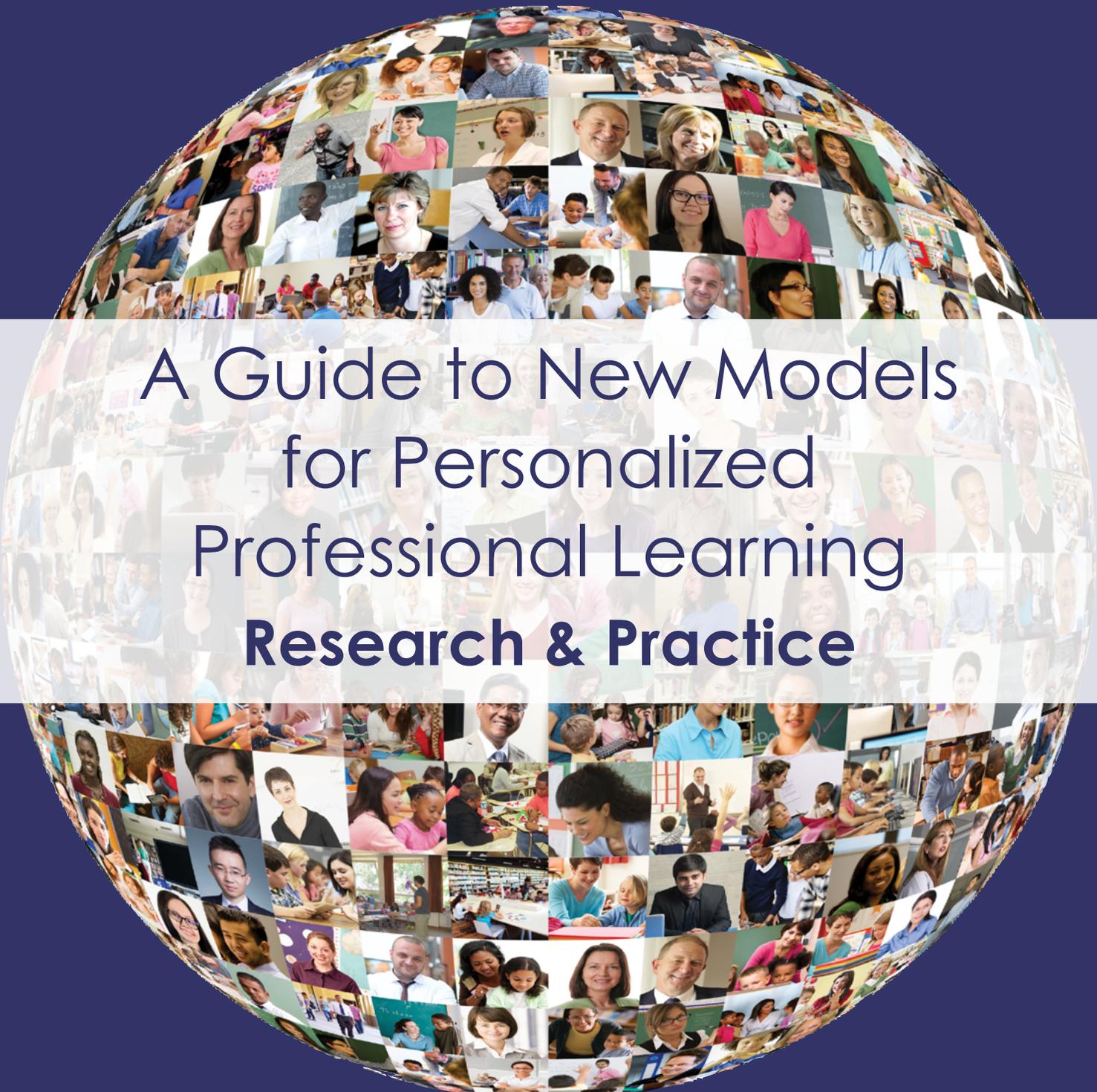


The logo for edWeb.net features the text "edWeb.net" in a white, sans-serif font. A green arc is positioned above the "ed" portion of the text.

edWeb.net

A large globe is the central focus, constructed from a dense mosaic of small, square photographs. These photos depict a wide variety of individuals, including students of different ages and ethnicities, as well as educators in various classroom and professional settings. The globe is set against a dark blue background.

A Guide to New Models
for Personalized
Professional Learning
Research & Practice

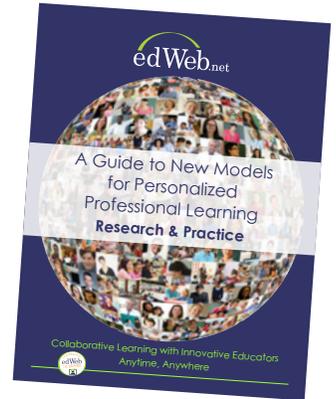
Collaborative Learning with Innovative Educators
Anytime, Anywhere





Personalized, Professional Learning — Anytime, Anywhere

edWeb.net was founded 10 years ago, and in that time we've grown into an award-winning professional learning network that helps engaged and innovative educators share their best ideas and practices— anytime, anywhere — with educators around the country and the world.



It's been 10 years since the dawn of the “connected educator” movement. In 2010 the U. S. Department of Education issued a National Education Technology Plan. The plan included the first statement officially endorsing the use of social networks for professional learning in education. “Social networks can be used to provide educators with career-long personal learning tools and resources that make professional learning timely and relevant as well as an ongoing activity that continually improves practice and evolves their skills over time.”

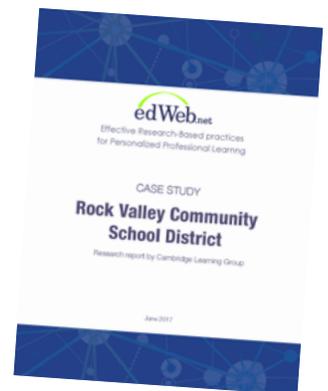
That statement remains as relevant as ever today, but equally relevant is the need for a space dedicated specifically for professional collaboration in education. General social networks have never been a good place for educators to come together to focus on how to improve teaching and learning.

edWeb has realized the dream of personalized professional learning at scale. The edWeb community has over 300,000 members of our professional learning network. They are engaged educators from preK through higher education who are committed to lifelong learning for themselves and to help their students learn more, achieve more, be more creative, and be better prepared for life.

edWeb has accumulated a body of research and practice to help educators get the most value from our free professional networking platform and our award-winning edWebinar programs. We hope this guide gives you inspiration and ideas to expand the ways you can offer personalized professional learning for educators, and make the learning more relevant, more immediate, and more fun.

We are able to provide these tools and professional learning programs for free thanks to our sponsors and partners who support this important work.

The edWeb Team



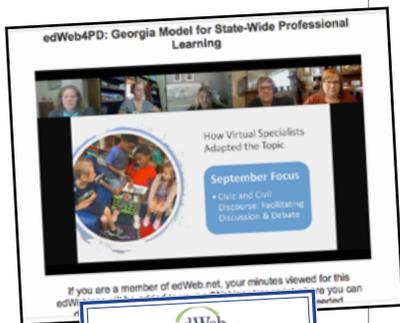
“When you have administrators, teachers, and people in my position who are planning PD do so in a way that is meaningful to each and every teacher, in any content area – it’s really exciting. edWeb has been instrumental in helping us achieve this, because it’s easy to get to, easy to maneuver, and there’s something for everyone. To me those are absolutely immeasurable qualities.”
Rachel Langenhorst,
Instructional Coach and Tech Integrationist, Rock Valley School District (IA)



edWeb.net Tools and Professional Learning Resources

edWeb.net is a free professional learning network where educators can join online communities on innovative ideas and practices in education, attend live or recorded edWebinars, complete personal learning plans, and earn CE certificates towards PD hours. edWeb gives teachers, librarians, and administrators from preK-12 the widest choice of professional learning topics – so there is something for every educator.

Here are some of the ways you can explore edWeb individually or as a group and expand your professional learning horizons with engaging edWebinars and a supportive professional community.



- edWeb hosts 300 live edWebinars a year on a wide range of topics. Educators can live chat with educators all around the world for a real-time, collaborative learning experience.
- edWebinars are recorded and there are **over 1,400 available on-demand**, for viewing anytime, anywhere.
- **edWeb professional learning communities** provide online networking with peers on topics of particular interest on a wide range of subjects. edWeb professional learning communities include archived edWebinars and resources and discussion forums.
- **Create your own private community** on edWeb for your school, district, or state. Your teachers can access all of edWeb's professional learning programs for free, and you can add your own.
- Educators earn valuable CE certificates when they attend or view and edWebinars. edWeb certificates are widely accepted for flexible PD requirements, and also by an increasing number of states including New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Texas.



edWeb fulfills the need for a professional social and learning network that is focused on the needs of educators. We've received wonderful awards and recognition for our work. We are happiest when edWebbers tell us every day how much they love edWeb. This guide includes the some of the many ways educators are using edWeb.

Please explore all edWeb has to offer!

Links:

edWeb Calendar: <https://home.edweb.net/webinars/>

Professional Learning Communities: <https://home.edweb.net/professional-learning-communities-with-free-webinars>

Create your own private community: <https://home.edweb.net/edwebpro>



edWeb.net Research & Practice

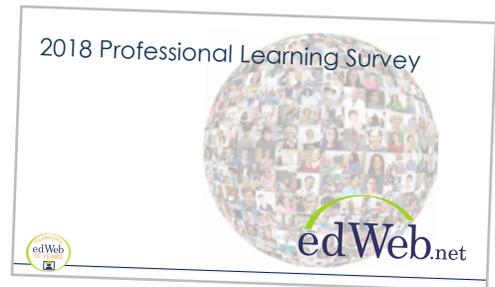
The edWeb community helps us connect directly with educators at all levels to find out what kind of professional learning is needed and how to deliver it in a way that teachers, administrators, librarians, and all educators find convenient, collaborative, valuable, worthwhile, and effective.

Through surveys and case studies we also learn more. These surveys provide compelling evidence of the effectiveness of edWeb.

K – 12: Professional Learning Survey 2018

edWeb conducted a survey of edWeb members in March 2018 on teacher and administrator attitudes about professional learning. The top reasons reported why teachers engage in professional learning is to improve learning for their students, to help improve their own teaching, and because they enjoy learning new ideas and practices from

peers and experts in their field. Both teachers and administrators who are members of edWeb said that webinars were the most helpful type of professional learning. Over 90% of teachers and administrators said the most important quality of professional learning is that it be available anytime, anywhere. Our members also made it clear in their responses the importance of having free professional learning.



Download the K-12 Professional Learning Survey at

<https://home.edweb.net/pd2018>

Early Childhood: Professional Learning Survey 2018

edWeb released a survey of edWeb members who are early childhood educators in July 2018. Early learning educators are 25% of edWeb members, we wanted to see if there were any differences in their attitudes about professional learning, and about edWeb's model for free personalized professional learning, in comparison to educators working

in higher grade levels. There are many similarities in responses with our K-12 survey. If anything, we found that early learning educators are even more positive about the value of edWeb as a professional network and resource.



Download the Early Childhood Professional Learning Survey at

<https://home.edweb.net/elpd2018>

Keep providing diverse, quality webinars which enable educators to do professional development after school in their classrooms without having to take a day off.

Participating in these webinars allows teachers to connect with teachers from around the country and around the world.

THANK YOU!!!

I told all my friends and co-workers about how useful and important these webinars are, and I gave them the website edWeb.net. We love edWeb.net and thank everyone who makes this kind of presentation possible.



edWeb Research & Practice

The following professional learning case studies and practices provide inspiration and models for how innovative educators use edWeb.

edWeb Case Study: Rock Valley Community School District

Prepared by Cambridge Learning Group

Rock Valley Community School District in Iowa relies on edWeb.net to support its professional development program for teachers. Their program embodies four of the key features identified by educational researchers as characterizing both high quality professional learning experiences, the effective design of online communities for teachers, and best practices for integrating informal online professional learning with formal district professional development. In each case, edWeb.net provides critical support that empowers Rock Valley leaders to implement research-based practices:

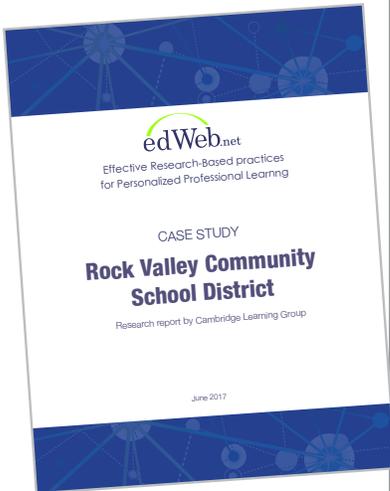
- Content-based professional development through edWeb.net resources applied to instruction
- Active learning through structured online activities and classroom application
- Collaboration that builds knowledge and makes collective decisions

This case study explains each of these key practices and shows how they align with the research base. Information about the Rock Valley professional development program comes from review of Rock Valley's edWeb.net community content and interviews with the district leader responsible for it and with two elementary school teachers who have participated in it, one in her second year in the classroom and a second with more than two decades of experience. The characteristics of effective professional development described are from a recent synthesis of research to date performed by the Learning Policy Institute (Darling-Hammond, Hyler, and Gardner, 2017). The characteristics of effective online communities and effective integration of informal and formal professional learning draw on research conducted and synthesized by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (Cambridge, 2014; Cambridge & Nussbaum-Beach, 2014).

Sustained development through personal learning plans linked to activities in edWeb.net has made it possible for Rock Valley Community School District to put a professional development program into place that embodies many of the features most important for improving instruction. Rachel Langenhorst, a district leader responsible for developing the professional development programs the district uses, acknowledges that some of the activities could have been supported using general-purpose tools, such as Google Docs, and some do incorporate such tools. However, she says that she uses edWeb.net because it provides a central hub through which to link together a "hot mess" of free tools. It offers an intuitive interface, keeps everything in one place, and offers extensive community administration options.

Download the case study to read the full report and the alignment to best practice and relevant research.

<https://home.edweb.net/edwebs-research-based-practices-personalized-professional-learning/>





Implementing a Personalized PD Program in Your District

Presented by Rachel Langenhorst, Instructional Coach and Tech Integrationist, Rock Valley, IA

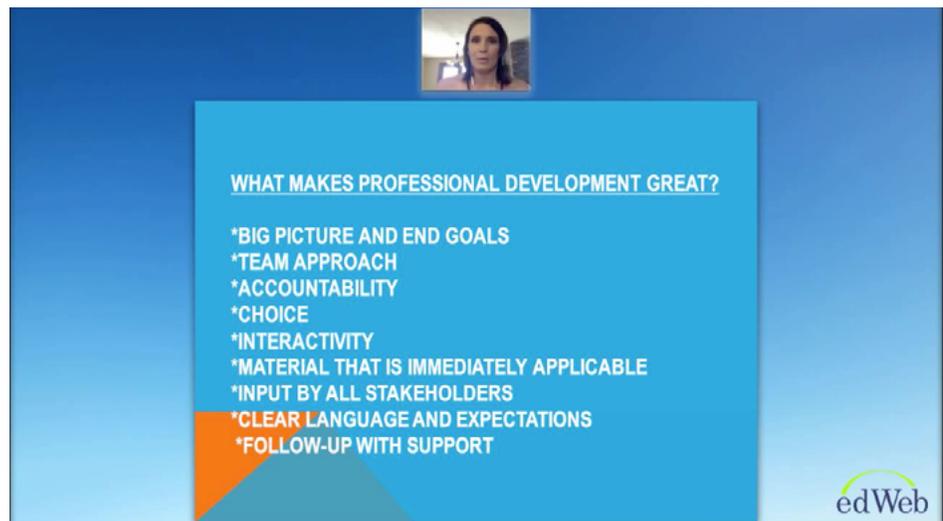


Rachel Langenhorst, K-12 Technology Integrationist and Instructional Coach in Rock Valley, Iowa, presented an edWeb.net webinar on “Implementing a Personalized PD Program in Your District” where she provided a guide for how educators can use edWeb in school districts as a tool to implement relevant and collaborative PD.

In a system where people learn in a variety of ways, one size does not fit all for PD programs. Districts must provide choice, allowing teachers to select what they want to learn while keeping in mind district goals. For teacher-selected PD, teachers should be provided with a plan for the time of day to work on PD, expectations for their learning, and a venue for sharing their learning. Rachel explained that Rock Valley uses their edWeb community page to have teachers post their learning reflections and feedback to others. Schools and districts can create their own community page on edWeb.net, and use the community to easily connect with others, facilitate discussion in the discussion forum or blog, post resources to share, and more.

(edWeb) has really been much more of a great home for all of the different things we want to do... edWeb really allowed us to personalize (our PD platform)

—Rachel Langenhorst



View an edWebinar demonstrating how Rachel Langenhorst uses edWeb.net to implement a personalized professional learning program in her district

If teachers need any direction, Rachel provides help through the blog on Rock Valley’s community page. Her favorite feature of the blog is being able to easily spot any new posts, which will automatically appear on the community page. This feature works with discussion posts too. Along with joining a community for your school’s network, she recommended using edWeb to connect with others to build your own personal professional learning network.



When you have administrators, teachers, and people in my position who are planning PD do so in a way that is meaningful to each and every teacher, in any content area – it's really exciting...



What Makes PD Great? Schools and districts can also use edWeb as an online meeting place. When introducing new topics or making announcements to groups of people, it can be difficult to gather everyone in person, especially in larger districts. An online venue proves valuable in these situations. edWeb community pages can be used to make announcements, post updates, and gather input.

When making any PD changes, schools should collaborate with district leaders and teachers, and get the input of all stakeholders, including parents. Schools should also have a plan worked out so that everyone is on this same page; what are you going to accomplish this year and when? People will want to participate if they know the school has put thought into developing a great PD program.

Rachel first came across edWeb as part of her graduate program, and found that it has helped her with her own personal learning and has allowed her to guide the educators in her district through their own professional development. She now uses edWeb in the graduate-level courses she teaches at Northwestern College, too.

“When you have administrators, teachers, and people in my position who are planning PD do so in a way that is meaningful to each and every teacher, in any content area – it’s really exciting. edWeb has been instrumental in helping us achieve this, because it’s easy to get to, easy to maneuver, and there’s something for everyone. To me those are absolutely immeasurable qualities,” Rachel said.

For more tips on implementing a personalized PD program in your district, watch Rachel Langenhorst’s edWebinar at <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/implementing-personalized-pd-program/>

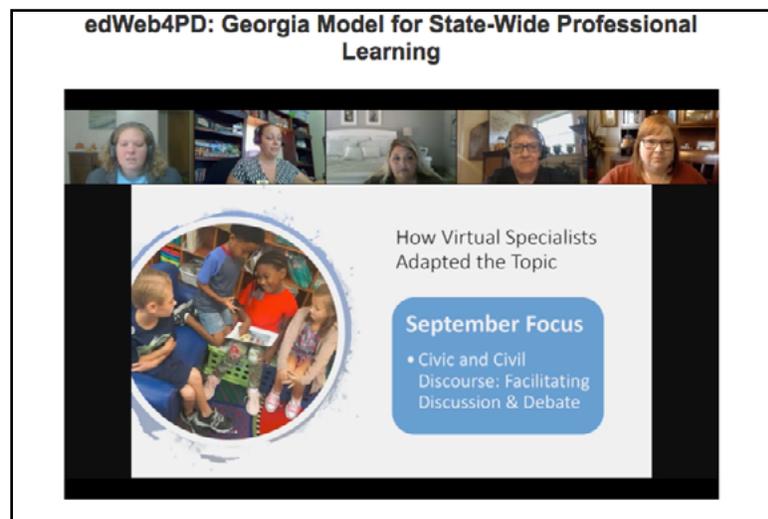




edWeb4PD: Georgia Model for State-Wide Professional Learning



Presented by Joy Hatcher, Social Studies Program Manager, Georgia Department of Education; JoAnn Wood, Social Studies Program Specialist, Georgia Department of Education; Heather MacKenzie, Instructional Coordinator for Social Studies, Henry County Schools, GA; Angie Battle, Fourth Grade Teacher, Warner Robins, GA; and Jennifer Zoumberis, First Grade Teacher, Perry, GA



Faced with implementing new standards and inquiry-based instruction with over 180 school districts and over 30,000 social studies teachers with a department of two people, the social studies team at the Georgia Department of Education turned to virtual learning communities on edWeb.net to reach Georgia teachers and leaders.

Watch the GaDOE Social Studies Department and their virtual specialists for this edWebinar as they share their three-year journey in creating and maintaining virtual learning communities for every grade level and course. They share their good, bad, and ugly moments and what they have learned together.

Watch the edWebinar at <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/edweb4pd20181001/>





We did a half day PD session with edWeb and it was amazing. My teachers said they got more out of that half day than they had in the past 5 – 6 years of PD.

— Dr. Robert Furman



How a Principal Uses edWeb for Personalized PD

Dr. Robert Furman, former elementary principal at Southpark Elementary School in PA, is a best-selling author, and a national keynote speaker. He talked with Lisa Schmucki, founder and CEO of edWeb.net, about how he uses edWeb.net to provide personalized PD that gets his teachers really motivated and excited about their professional learning.

Rob describes how successful it was the first time he asked his teachers to try using edWeb for PD. “We did a half day PD session with edWeb and it was amazing. My teachers said they got more out of that half day than they had in the past 5 – 6 years of PD. I made friends because they loved this PD so much. If they’re not interested they’re not going to put their heart and soul into it. But if you ask them to pick something that interests them, all of a sudden it’s meaningful, they WANT to do it.

Rob has continued to use edWeb to provide personalized PD, and his teachers absolutely love it. It’s personalized professional development. Just like we should be personalizing instruction for our kids, administrators should be personalizing instruction for their teachers.

Rob explained how their PD program works. At the beginning of the year, the teachers pick a topic they each want to work on individually, and they find 8 – 10 resources on the topic on edWeb – and there are so many topics. The teachers love it because edWeb is a one-stop shop for great resources on all kinds of specific topics. It’s created a personalized PD system for the school and has made a huge impact with the teachers. So many times teachers ask “Is this professional development going to relate to me? Am I going to have to sit here for 4 hours and listen to garbage?” Well, that’s all gone by the wayside because now they do what they’re interested in, and they look forward to it.

When you look at student learning, we no longer have one class of 30 students. We should have 30 classes of 1 student because it all should be personalized. The same applies to professional development. Principals and administrators should be doing the exact same best practices for their teachers because they are in effect their students. “edWeb gives you a tool to make a very easy jump into personalized professional development.”

Listen to Rob’s interview on Education Talk Radio

[Take the Risk, Take the Extra Step: Advice for School Leaders](#)

Dr. Robert Furman, Principal of South Park Elementary, was interviewed by edWeb to gain an administrator’s perspective on providing quality professional development for teachers and the social aspect of learning. While Robert first discovered edWeb as a webinar presenter, he quickly realized the site’s potential as a best-practices research platform, an affordable source of teacher PD, and an opportunity for growth-focused evaluation.

Read more and listen to the interview at

<https://home.edweb.net/take-risk-take-extra-step/>





Using edWeb.net to Connect with Pre-Service Teachers

Tech4TeacherEd is an edWeb.net community for pre-service teachers, college of education faculty, and inservice educators can share resources and ideas for integrating digital tools into the classroom.

The goal of Tech4TeacherEd is to provide a free professional learning community where undergraduate and graduate pre-service candidates can discover information about integrating technology into teaching and learning, a wide range of resources for educators, and the ISTE Standards for Students, Educators, Education Leaders and Tech Coaches. The community hosts edWebinars presented by teacher ed candidates, giving them an unprecedented opportunity to share their learning and perspectives on the issues impacting education with the global education community. It helps them engage as a professional in lifelong learning right from the start in their pre-service years.

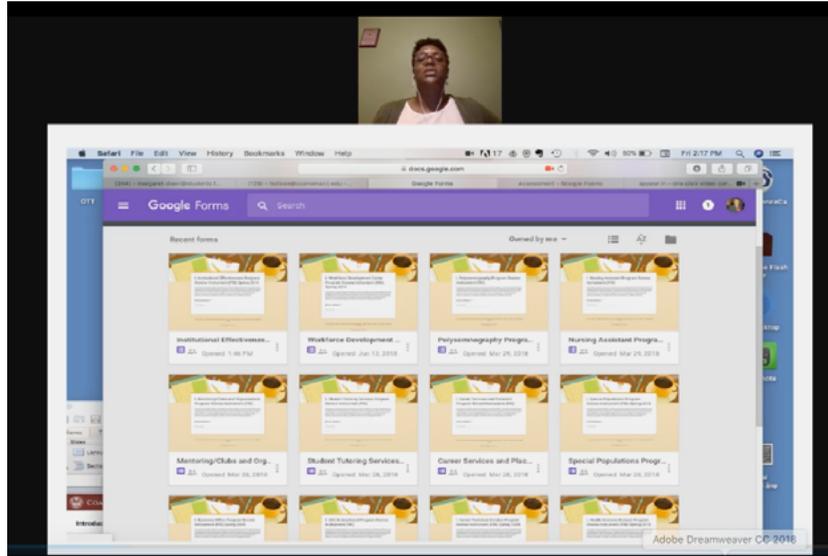
The community was founded and is hosted and moderated by Dr. Monte Tatom, Associate Professor of Education at Freed-Hardeman University (TN) who believes pre-service teachers need to engage with the large education community as early as possible on their path to becoming teachers, administrators, and educators in any role.

“One reason why seven years ago I joined edWeb.net [is] because it’s very important for us to continue our learning process,” commented Dr. Tatom in a recent edWebinar. “I have to make sure I stay connected to make sure I am on top of the most current way of doing things. That’s why it’s important to have your 24/7 professional development.”

Tech4TeacherEd is a wonderful community for pre-service teachers and any educator who wants to mentor students who have made the wonderful decision to choose education as a career.



The following edWebinar recordings are available to view on-demand, and more will be added as the program continues:



Surviving and Thriving in a Teacher Education Program

Taylor Warren, a candidate in the M.Ed. in Instructional Technology program at Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee, presented helpful tips and tricks for not just surviving, but thriving in teacher education courses. Taylor discussed: planning, priorities, organization, communication, engagement, seeking help when needed, asking questions, participating, and relieving stress.



How to Survive an Online Class

Hear from Dr. Monte Tatom, who has been teaching online classes since 2009, on ways in which participants in online learning can survive in that environment. Dr. Tatom discussed: devoting time, communication, engagement, getting involved early, how online classes vary greatly, taking it seriously, time management, contributing and participating, taking advantage of tech tutorials, and seeking assistance if needed.



Introducing Tech4TeacherEd on edWeb

Dr. Monte Tatom, Associate Professor of Education at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, TN, talked with Margaret Dixon, Director of Research, Assessment and Strategic Initiatives at Coahoma Community College, and Instructional Technologist Candidate; Brittany Fowler, Instructional Technologist Candidate; and Ashley McCrory, Kindergarten Teacher, Instructional Technologist Candidate who are candidates in the online M.Ed. in Instructional Technology program at Freed-Hardeman University. They are in their capstone course and shared technologies that they have used while candidates in the program. They also discussed suggested technologies for both teacher ed candidates and professors.

Join the Tech4TeacherEd community for invitations to upcoming programs at:
www.edWeb.net/tech4teachered



Using edWeb for Collaboration in Higher Education

Holbrook Mahn, Professor in the department of Language, Literacy, & Sociocultural Studies at the University of New Mexico, presented in the edWeb.net webinar, “Using edWeb for Collaboration in Higher Education Courses.” Holbrook discussed how he uses edWeb in his higher education seminars.

Since he began teaching in 1997, Holbrook has been interested in the use of technology to facilitate learning in the classroom. Unimpressed with the online platforms provided by the university, Holbrook found out about edWeb through a colleague and was immediately pleased with the wealth of opportunity for collaboration and discussion. edWeb makes collaboration outside the classroom simple for Holbrook’s busy doctoral students, many of whom also balance families and full time jobs.



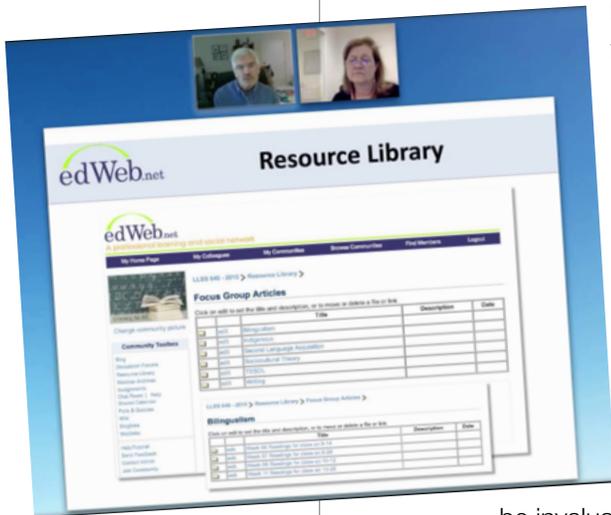
Using this platform, Holbrook creates community pages for both his doctoral seminar and his seminar on the work of Vygotsky. The main feature he uses in the community pages is the resource library. Here, he uploads audio files for podcasts, presentations, course readings, syllabi, and more. The resource library can even be used to post the “really important things,” Holbrook joked, “like the snack list for the course.”

Holbrook also pointed out the ease with which his students can review each other’s work. Students can review a piece of literature from the resource library and post their responses on their own edWeb member home pages, easily allowing others to read their reviews. To foster even deeper conversation, Holbrook uses edWeb to divide the doctoral seminar into interest groups, creating community pages for each point of interest. Students can participate in deeper discussion and post reviews of articles in the discussion forum of each community.

The community for his seminar on the work of Vygotsky is particularly helpful to international students, as it allows for collaboration with his American students. Although there were some initial challenges with the international students using some of these online platforms, edWeb was able to assist. “I was very thankful because I had a number of students in China, and at first they weren’t able to (use some of the



online networks) but with (edWeb's) help they were," said Holbrook. To provide the international students with extra support, he posts recordings from the seminars and summaries of class discussions in the community.



Holbrook concluded the webinar with some of his favorite edWeb features. First, flexibility when customizing the community page has been a great benefit, along with the interactivity and simplicity of the site. edWeb also provides Holbrook with quick and reliable support when needed, and is always open to suggestions. "I would make suggestions to the edWeb team, and they were happy to implement them for ease of use," said Holbrook. edWeb responded, "We can be better because of all the suggestions you make." Last, Holbrook mentioned the number one selling point: edWeb.net is free.

By engaging in these groups, members can have access to contacts all around the world that they normally wouldn't be in contact with through their doctoral programs alone, which can

be invaluable for these students. Since members will not lose access to communities, edWeb provides a mentorship program that can continue to grow even after graduation.

Holbrook Mahn is a Professor in the department of Language, Literacy, & Sociocultural Studies at the University of New Mexico, where he has been teaching for 20 years. Prior to that, he was a high school English as a Second Language teacher in Los Angeles. His main teaching responsibilities have focused on helping to prepare teachers to educate culturally and linguistically diverse students, particularly in second language literacy. For the last two decades he has written extensively about the work of Vygotsky.

To learn more about using edWeb for higher education, [watch Holbrook Mahn's webinar.](#)

