Dr. Larry Anderson's Workshops/Training

Professional Development: The Heart of School Progress

Anyone who has worked in a school knows quite well that professional development is absolutely crucial to authentic, sustained progress. Even though teachers have plenty of desire to improve, the reality of their situation is that they are encumbered by a myriad of responsibilities that consume their time. Therefore, a healthy, well-planned, timely professional development session can be a veritable oasis for them—a sort of "regeneration." Thus, Dr. Anderson offers a variety of sessions that encourage and support educators at all levels, in all types of educational settings.

Professional Advancement Workshops:

[Choose a session listed below, and contact Dr. Anderson to schedule a presentation at your school]

Podcasting and Podcatching for the Absolute Beginner
Podcasting is a phenomenon that is taking the world by storm. This is an extremely powerful use of technology, especially for authentic and sustainable student learning. Further, podcasting has the potential for building strong bonds between and among essential elements of a school community. In this session, we will discuss and discover the basics of podcasting and what it is, then how to go about "podcatching"—the actual retrieval of podcasts that are made available for online access. Terms (nomenclature) and processes will be described in basic, simple language so that participants will leave the session feeling confident in their ability to participate in this emerging phenomenon.

Podcasting for the Educator: A Soup-to-Nuts Tutorial
Have you heard all the buzz about podcasting, but you just can't figure out how or why you can become involved in this exciting phenomenon? Have you seen your students carrying their iPods (or other MP3 players), but you just don't know exactly how you can get them to listen to you rather than a loud rock band? Or, are you dreaming about the day when students create their own content that can be played on the iPod? If any of these apply to you, then you will want to join this session where we start at the beginning and then proceed right through playing your content on an MP3 player.

Naturally, the entire process hinges upon developing content that will have direct and authentic connection to your curriculum.
This session is equally beneficial to teachers, staff, administrators, and parents. Ample time is given for participants' questions and discussion. Too, a healthy compilation of resources is provided.

Podcasting Studio Construction Kit: Soup to Nuts
So, you've heard about this podcasting thing…and you've decided that you would like to try your hand at making your own. But, you don't know what equipment you will need in order for your podcasts to sound their best. Well, come to this session and hear how to build a simple (or complex) studio from the ground up. Learn about microphones, headsets, booms, recorders, mixers, cables, furniture, and a whole bunch of other stuff. This will be a step-by-step session where nobody is intimidated, yet everybody leaves knowing more than when they came in!

Podcasting for the Administrator: Your Communication Oasis
Podcasting isn't just for the teenagers. It is an extremely powerful tool for administrators in a variety of organizations. Certainly, the school administrator can employ podcasting as a great boon to productivity. But, administrators and decision makers in many other organizations will find podcasting to be a

major mechanism for leveraging their time to enhance efficiency.

This session digs into podcasting solutions for the organizational leader. Examples of success are revealed, then participants are engaged in a robust discussion of ways that podcasting can be of benefit in each person's specific work situation. This session will be of great value to the individuals who want to harness modern technologies to sharpen the efficiency within their jobs.

Web 2.0: What's All the Hype About?

Wikis, blogs, social networking (MySpace, Facebook, Ning) are terms that evoke strong responses from educators. Depending upon which side of the fence you find yourself, the Web 2.0 technologies can be either good or bad. But, we must remember that the students we serve know, understand, and use this stuff. What do we educators do, though, to ensure that Web 2.0 technologies are employed in meaningful ways?

During this session, participants will learn the definitions and applications of Web 2.0 for authentic student achievement. Ample examples will be shown, as well as discussions to encourage educators to feel increasingly comfortable with emerging technologies.

Building Learning Communities to Support Student Learning

It was reported that shortly after news of the Virginia Tech shootings was released, students around the world formed themselves into a virtual classroom for the purpose of discussing senseless violence. How could this happen, especially when the "traditional" schools had absolutely no hand in putting together this education experience? Answer: They built and maintained a robust online learning community -- and did so quickly!

This presentation has been one, historically, that creates great excitement among teachers and administrators. They are able to discover and understand ways that an interactive learning community is used to support student learning, both in class and after hours.

Depending upon the physical and technological conditions of the venue where this presentation is delivered, a learning community will be set up for seminar participants. Thus, the ease of applying online learning communities to the classroom experience can be witnessed, first-hand.

Misfits in Your Classroom: Who's to Blame?

No two students learn in the same way. No two teachers teach the same way. No two schools function in the same way. We,

as professional, dedicated educators, know these facts to be true.

Yet, for some unexplainable reason, we seem determined to treat all students, teachers, and schools as though they are exactly like all other students, teachers, and schools. We seem reluctant to make allowances for the special "gifts" that creative learners bring to the instructional experience.

This highly popular and successful presentation illuminates real-life examples that show clearly why we should be aware of —and alert for—learners who possess one or more of the multiple intelligences identified in the highly respected research conducted by Dr. Howard Gardner.

Of all the keynote and breakout sessions given by Dr. Anderson, this is clearly the most popular. It is engaging, participatory, and shows the acute importance of seeing "misfits" not as obstructions to teaching and learning, but rather as a strong resource to the entire education enterprise.

Technology Integration: Bridging the Gap to Your Curriculum

During this session, we will examine a variety of avenues and resources that aid instructors who desire to bring technological solutions into their teaching practice. This may manifest itself in the form of reconfigured lecture patterns. It may come in the form of students' using technology solutions as they prepare reports, perform research, work with student peers, or learn in a multitude of other ways.

In the past, I have delivered this session so it is focused upon particular curricular areas: language arts, foreign language studies, math, science, social studies, and even co-curricular activities, especially in a high school environment. At the higher education level, we poll faculty to determine the panorama of instructional areas and then discover, together, solutions for integrating technologies in a sensible fashion into those areas. In addition to direct curriculum integration, I have led sessions in finding meaningful integration into administration, both at the institutional level, as well as the classroom level.

In this session, we incorporate a vast span of devices and resources to reinforce the importance of meaningful, authentic integration.

Technology Planning: Secrets for Evaluating and Revising Your Existing Plan

The concept of technology planning is no longer a foreign or novel concept to educators. Most of us have written our technology plans, either for E-Rate funding, for some kind of grant, or to satisfy requirements of our State Department of Education. Far fewer of us, though, have known the proper strategies to use in updating our plans on a regular basis.

Currently, many states are requiring school districts to submit updated technology plans, so the process this second or third time around is not nearly as clear-cut as it was when we drafted our first plan. To make matters more complicated, the educational technology professionals have learned more about technology planning than they knew originally, so the expectations placed upon schools are more stringent. This poses quite a dilemma for school personnel throughout the world, as we make attempts at "modernizing" a technology plan that, as it turns out, may not have been so "hot" in the first place.

Participants in this workshop will receive information concerning (and, in some cases, get hands-on experience using) a variety of techniques that have been used successfully by multiple schools and districts to upgrade their technology plans.

We shall examine such notions as: technology audits; internal and external scanning strategies; technology self-assessments; web-based evaluation/updating tools. Also, participants will gain great benefit by examining success stories from schools that have updated plans that are working well.

As a result of this workshop, participants will enjoy a renewed capacity to manage and lead local efforts. They will leave the workshop rejuvenated and empowered to enhance, powerfully, their local technology planning responsibilities.

Digital Media: Bringing the Excitement of Hollywood to Your Classroom

It is an easily recognizable fact that today's young people gravitate naturally to highly-interactive, engaging experiences. The proliferation of Game Boys, Playstation units, DVD players, CD players, MP3 players, and the magnitude of media that are used on these devices have all captivated the attention of modern learners. Digital media (video, audio, and interactive devices) represents an extremely powerful teaching and learning opportunity. This can be either as intricate or as simple as we choose.

In this session, we will explore a variety of ways digital media can be incorporated into classroom activities with a focus on authentic, relevant, meaningful use. We shall discuss methods of evaluating student (individual and team) efforts with digital media. We shall examine some premiere examples of projects created by both students and teachers elsewhere in the U.S.

Digital media represents an area with perhaps the most untapped potential in all of education. This is an exciting session that gets participants actively involved in the process, so it's fun for everyone in attendance.

Students As Your Best Technology Support Resource

Throughout the United States, many examples exist where students have become one of the most indispensable elements of successful technology adoption by faculty. Most often, we teachers think that students enter our classes solely to learn the numerous concepts we present to them. Students are not encouraged to develop their own learning schemes, because they would wander too far outside the parameters we have established as being most important to our showing "Adequate Yearly Progress" in student achievement. However, many schools are breaking the mold. How?

This session will provide a multitude of examples of how students have become much more than 'in the seat learners." We highlight schools where students are the ones who work closely with teachers to develop interactive instructional materials, to architect scenarios in which teachers can use technology to save many hours of time or to get certain points across to diverse learners in a facile manner. Too, we discuss instances in which students have become invaluable mentors to teachers, helping them to overcome a bevy of technology-related dilemmas.

This session is about the power of the student learner when channeled appropriately by insightful educators.

Leadership: A Team Sport

Far too often, classroom instructors don't see themselves as institutional leaders. Quite to the contrary, they are crucial elements who contribute to the overall success of a venture. In this session, we illuminate key principles that demonstrate the essential nature inherent in the "teacher as leader" concept. Through the use of numerous examples, case studies, scenarios, and even team role playing, we learn how to understand our leadership potential, to nurture it, to apply it properly in

circumstances that face us, and to use it in a collegial fashion to advance the institution's success.

We employ the metaphor of sports—a concept everyone can understand—to draw parallels between the roles performed by athletes, their coaches, and the team concept and the roles performed by members of an educational community. A summative objective is that all attendees see themselves, afresh, as winners on the "Leadership Team."

Note: This session can be tailored specifically for administrators, staff, teachers, parent volunteers–or a combination of any of these. In addition, the concept of *teamwork* can be integrated into this session or led separately as a discrete seminar.

Technology Policy: Keeping Your School—and YOU—Out of Trouble

The main purpose here is to discuss technology-related policies that guide our decisions. I usually begin with the AUP—a policy with which all or most educators are familiar. Yet very few educator practitioners realize fully what a potentially dangerous thing an AUP can be, especially if the school installs filtering software on their computers. I give evidence of the famous landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Tinker et al. v. Des Moines*, which deals with student rights and ... according to the Computer Law Association in Washington, is a great model for a HUGE wave of class-action lawsuits that have the potential for sweeping across the country. Certainly, there exists a plethora of other well-established benchmarks for determining the ill-comprehended perils lurking amidst the deployment of technology policies in school districts across America. Anyway, it's a chance to discuss really important topics…then to seek others' technology policies in existence and provide an avenue for sharing, much as we have done with exemplary technology plans over the years.

Maximizing Community Resources

Community is supremely important for education at all levels. In this session, we focus upon numerous areas where the richness of a community can be captured in order to benefit learning:

- talent identification
- online information gathering
- business partnerships
- recognition programs
- surveys
- resource sharing
- civic involvement
- shadowing

as well as other considerations brought forth in discussion with session attendees.

The focus of this session is to identify and illuminate community resources, then determine strategies for employing the best a community can offer to the enhancement of an educational environment.