



K-12 Teachers Swarm Summer Workshop



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**Dennis Herrick, Professor of Music
Coordinator of Academic Technology
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Solution Summary

- Offers K-12 math and science teachers creative ways to present curriculum
- Empowers pre-service teachers with versatile mobile technologies
- Provides K-12 teachers an easy-to-use, effective administrative tool

Challenge

When it comes to providing high-quality professional development for K-12 teachers on a grand scale, Huntingdon College has discovered a winning combination. Professors at the college and technology integration specialists from several school districts have teamed up to develop a summer technology workshop. It's been such a hit, that the program is moving into its fourth year.

Called the "Huntingdon Technology Initiative," or HTI, this two-day workshop offers K-12 math, science, and computer teachers an array of classes for learning how to use Palm® handhelds and to integrate them creatively into their classrooms.

This initiative has been funded with a congressional grant from the U.S. Department of Education, specified for training elementary and secondary math and science teachers from around the state of Alabama. The ultimate goal of the grant is to promote the integration of technology into the classroom and to provide new connections between participating teachers.

"The difficulty is trying to do too much in two days," says Huntingdon College Professor Dennis Herrick. "How can we give these teachers all that they need to effectively use the handhelds when they return to their schools?"

Herrick is also a certified Palm Education Technology Coordinator (PETC) and he has played a major role in the HTI workshops each year as the administrator. He has taught close to 900 teachers over the last three years, training both small and large groups. Finding a way to provide the widest range of sessions while offering in-depth instruction is one of the major challenges.

Solution

The answer to this challenge is kind of a balancing act. The team first provides sessions on handheld basics, and then offers up a number of workshops from which the teachers choose. This year, sessions cover such topics as "CSI at HTI: Palm-Based Forensic Science Activities," "10 Novel Activities for Science Classrooms," and "10 Reasons to Use Handheld Computers Instead of..." Many of the presentations involve the use of Vernier sensors and the LabPro Interface with the handhelds for gathering scientific data. Teachers can also learn about other technologies, like Microsoft Powerpoint and Excel, web-based resources, and robotics.



Solution (cont.)

Since the entire program is funded through the grant, there is no cost for the participants. Their dormitory rooms and meals, CEU credit, and all training sessions are all included. However, the most popular benefit is the Palm® handheld that each teacher receives and uses throughout the weekend-and gets to keep.

Training takes place in Huntingdon College's computer labs and Smart Classrooms where instructors and participants can use a range of technologies, like SMART Boards, video recording and playback equipment, an integrated computer, and wireless capabilities.

Faculty members for the HTI 2005 workshop include professors from Huntingdon College and Alabama State University, and educational technology specialists from schools and districts around the state. Many have subject expertise in math, chemistry, and biology, while also being technology experts.

"We've trained from 200-500 teachers each summer over the last three years," says Herrick. "Palm handhelds provide these teachers with a whole new way of looking at math and science instruction. The program is very successful and we expect another big turnout this year."

Technical Summary

- Palm handhelds & keyboards
- Vernier LabPro Interface & Vernier sensors

More Information

Huntingdon College
www.Huntingdon College.edu