University of Central Oklahoma

School or Educational System
University of Central Oklahoma
College of Education

Edmond, OK

Grade Level
University

Challenge
To incorporate handheld technologies into the teacher prep curriculum so that candidates will be ready to teach creatively in a wide variety of P-12 educational settings.

Solution
Palm™ handheld computers, keyboards, Veo attachable digital cameras, library of 30 peripherals
Applications: Palm Memo Pad®, Address Book®, Date Book®, ToDo List®; Data Viz, Inc., Documents to Go; GoKnow, PiCo Map™; Infinity Softworks, Inc., PowerOne Graph; Discovery Software Ltd., Principalm™; TriBeam Technologies, Inc. wireless network

Benefits
- Provides highly motivating & affordable tool for faculty, teacher candidates, and P-12 students
- Allows mobile access to information
- Supports innovative teaching practices

The Story
Students moving through the teacher preparation progra University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) get a double-dose instruction. First they learn the basics and general uses foundation courses, like educational psychology and inst technology. Then as they take their specialized methods study how handhelds by palmOne can be used in various areas, such as math, science, health studies/PE, English studies.

"What makes our program unique," says Dana Owens, D Technology for the College of Education, "is that we're ir handhelds into the curriculum so completely. Teacher ec are incorporating handheld technology into their classes can model innovative uses. Then instructors and student begin to develop creative ideas for using the handhelds i education."

Challenge
In 2002 the College of Education joined the Oklahoma S Department of Education and the Putnam City School Di partnership to provide handhelds and training to pre-ser service teachers, and P-12 students. The Fund for the Ir Education has provided financial backing for these effort

The goal for the College of Education has been to incorp technologies into the teacher education curriculum so th teachers can learn to use them effectively when they be a diversity of school settings. Many school districts in lov areas see handhelds as one way to provide students wit learning environments at an affordable cost.

According to Owens, "handhelds are bridging this econo other piece of technology has been able to before."

Implementing handheld technology in schools also leads approaches to teaching and learning that are based on t research into how we construct knowledge. Owens belie integrating handhelds into teacher prep curriculum enco teaching candidates to develop creative thinking as they meaningful, individualized learning experiences that may otherwise.

palmOne™ Solution
The college purchased 120 handhelds by palmOne, inclu of 30 handhelds and keyboards to be used in the classro who wanted to integrate a handheld component into the They also have put together a library of peripherals, suc systems and science probes, that faculty can use to dem students

The project is being implemented in four phases, each la semester: 1) faculty learn to use handhelds as a persona faculty bring handhelds into class demonstrations and ac faculty fully integrate handhelds into their curriculum wh appropriate uses, and 4) faculty and students focus on c curriculum utilizing handheld technologies.

- Offers individualized, enriched learning experience
- Enhances collaboration and builds relationships

"...the benefits of incorporating handhelds have been established as a technology bridge for faculty, teacher candidates, and P-12 schools, all actively seeking to share the lessons learned."

Dana V. Owens
Director of Technology, College of Education
University of Central Oklahoma

"The project flows more easily by having the framework experience in place before moving to the next phase," sa

Students first learn to use the handhelds in their core ec foundation classes for writing, researching, early lesson development, and collaboration. When they reach the m methods courses, they explore the many ways handheld incorporated in content areas.

Faculty and students are finding the handhelds useful fo simplest of tasks. Some professors on the first day of cla students fill out contact information along with their thou questions about the class. Students then beam them to who then has an up-to-date list. Some use attachable di to take snapshots of each student to help with name rec large class.

Documents to Go is one of the most popular programs b word processing and presentations. In many classes, stu handhelds to develop projects together. One may create document, while another connects to the web via Tribea networking to conduct research, while another uses a Zi palmOne or attachable Veo digital camera to take photos pull their work together as a collaborative project, that h them to have an introductory experience with several di components that work together.

In some courses, they use PicoMap for concept mapping how to develop lesson plans. In the math methods cours have done a comparative study between the PowerOne C calculator for handhelds and the more traditional, standa calculators.

In a masters-level technology course for school administ exploring applications like Principalm, which allows princ identify students on a database that they can access wh may be on campus.

Benefits

"The amount of acceptance and excitement regarding th been unprecedented," claims Owens. "The faculty have s amazingly positive response to the integration of handhe part to a systematic approach, a high level of support, a goals throughout the project."

They're finding also that since handhelds are so affordab teacher education candidates are purchasing their own. having their own computer with them at all times to acc and to do school work.

At all levels, they see handhelds as a way to offer creati learning experiences that can meet the needs of each in way that wouldn't exist otherwise. At the same time, ha computers are also enhancing interconnectedness, wher and share information, writing, and visual images.

"Handhelds enhance the human side of learning, motiva work together," says Owens.

Owens finally believes that "as faculty experience the lea and access to information that handhelds can provide, th for use as an effective learning tool increases. As a large preparation institution, the benefits of incorporating han been established as a technology bridge for faculty, teac candidates, and P-12 schools, all actively seeking to sha learned.

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