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COE Helps Schools in Digital Age

October 13, 2014

Tablets and smart phones, Google Apps and Hangouts, technology has changed the way people interact. Schools, however, have been slow to adapt. With the help of the College of Education's Center for Educational Leadership and Service (CELS), directed by Associate Professor Jason LaFrance, K-12 leaders from around the United States will learn how to create learning opportunities that 21st century students need.

CELS, with the National Principals Academy, is sponsoring a one-day workshop led by Dr. Scott McLeod, a visionary on technology leadership and preparing students for the future, and Dr. Steven Edwards, an international expert in education leadership development. The workshop will be held October 24, 2014, at the Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, Georgia.

Through a combination of presentations and smaller "micro sessions," participants will explore new ideas about how education can and should prepare students for the rich and challenging world they will live in, and to process those ideas with other attendees, LaFrance explained.

"In this workshop attendees will learn about creating a vision for success in the digital age, better technology integration, and how to overcome fear, control and other policy concerns," LaFrance said. "Our conference leaders will frame how they see the future of education and share how to become a leader who creates the learning opportunities our students need and deserve", LaFrance continued.

School leaders will come away with strategies to overcome barriers to integrating technology in their district /school; developing a vision for technology infused education; how to better help students compete in a global economy positively impact a school's culture and climate; and how to embed best practices with current Common Core standards.

For more information on "Leading and Learning in a Digital World," click here <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ce/conferences/leading/>

EAGLES Tutoring Takes Flight

October 13, 2014

More than 15 percent of Georgia's adult population doesn't finish high school, and for many the time and effort to get a General Education Development (GED) credential can be daunting. "The U.S. Department of Education reports about 1.2 million adults in Georgia without a high school diploma," said College of Education Assistant Professor Amelia Davis. That's why Davis decided to create EAGLES Tutoring, a weekly tutoring session for adults hosted in the College of Education. EAGLES (Enhancing Adult Georgians' Life and Educational Skills) Tutoring is designed to help adult students seeking to improve their basic skills or obtain their GED®. Davis, who is in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, specializes in adult learning and adult basic education and worked in the field of adult education for 12 years prior to coming to Georgia Southern.

"It's a great opportunity for adult learners to build their basic academic skills and for future educators in the College of Education to get firsthand experience developing strategies for working with parents who many not have a high school diploma or who may lack the basic skills needed to assist their child with schoolwork," Davis said. Students who volunteer with the tutoring program receive training on working with adult learners, and may get service-learning credit.

"Ogeechee Technical College (OTC) in Statesboro provides a great basic education and GED preparation program," Davis remarked. For the past two years Davis has volunteered time each week with Ogeechee Tech's Adult Learning Program. "The EAGLES program is scheduled on Fridays when GED preparation isn't offered at OTC, but I also wanted to broaden awareness of adult education by bringing it to Georgia Southern and to provide more opportunities for adults in our community," she added. OTC's lead adult education instructor, Nancy Holt, says that the one-on-one help provided by EAGLES Tutoring is a big boost for the area. "This is a wonderful program," she remarked. "Students in our program who need extra help or want to get caught up have another option with this program. We're not competing with each other, we're working together to help the community," she said. "It's especially helpful because EAGLES Tutoring can provide the one-on-one attention we can't always give," she added. Holt is a COE alumna with undergraduate and graduate degrees in education.

While the program is new this fall, Davis said she expects it to grow as word gets out. "We've already had a positive response from COE majors and even faculty who are volunteering as tutors, and from the community. I hope with time that EAGLES Tutoring will really take off," she added.



Tamela Evans, a COE Ed.D. candidate works with Joseph Lee at EAGLES Tutoring

