The Hornet Connected Learning 1:1 Mobile Technology Initiative is a movement to accommodate a shift in paradigm utilizing mobile technology as a pivotal tool in preservice higher education programs. It encompasses: changing infrastructures, creating new learning environments, raising the bar on the knowledge base of faculty and students, creating and expanding communities of learning, developing a continual growth model that is sustainable, and building collaborative technology environments between higher education and PK-12 schools.

Why was it created?

This initiative began in Kansas as a response to the increasing number of PK-12 schools entering a 1:1 mobile device initiative and a need to better prepare students and faculty to position themselves as leaders in connected learning and teaching through the use of current technologies.

In the initial stages, the iPad was selected as the “current” common tool and was required for all faculty and students in the elementary education program. Intense training with the device was begun with faculty, and the university infrastructure was strengthened to support the new learning model. By the fall of 2014, faculty had made considerable gains in their knowledge base and had begun transforming the way devices were utilized, specifically focusing on using technology to learn and teach with primary emphasis on pedagogy and content. In this same
semester, students joined the project and began using the devices in classes and internships during the sophomore through senior years. Students brought their own devices but stayed within guidelines set up by the project so that all would be learning with a similar tool.

Throughout the process, a planning team worked to build multiple learning opportunities and extensive communities of learners intertwining students, general education faculty, teachers college faculty, community college and public school partners. The professional development plan allows for all learners to work side-by-side as members of a learning network. These shared learning experiences provide opportunities for facilitated learning with highly active engagement and learner driven topics.

Within the initiative, a research plan has been designed to collect baseline and ongoing data throughout the implementation process. Refinements are continually underway as data is analyzed. Current emphasis for the program is being placed on sustainability and outreach with plans to share research-based and practical findings and experiences with other educators in similar pursuits.

Emporia State University welcomes contacts with other TRG member universities and is willing to provide support in similar start-up effort or programs. For more information about the Emporia initiative, see the Hornet Connected Learning website at http://www.emporia.edu/teach/hcl/.

How can my university become involved in the signature project?

As part of The Renaissance Group Signature Project, there are several ways to become involved:

- Start your own 1:1 Mobile Technology Initiative in your institution or teacher education program; reach out to Emporia State University if you would like some assistance or advice

- Share your own institutional experiences and get the collaborative help of others through TRG.

- Be part of a larger scale on-going research study through collaboration with Emporia State University; survey your own student body as you implement or continue with mobile technology initiatives

- Collaborate with partner school districts and create learning networks and communities to improve learning and teaching with current technologies
Helpful Resources

Contacts and Connections

Emporia State University

Hornet Connected Learning Website, http://www.emporia.edu/teach/hcl/

Teachers College - Dean Ken Weaver, kweaver.emporia.edu

Hornet Connected Learning Planning Team

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