Preparing Pre-Service Health and Physical Education Candidates to Teach K-12 Online
Faculty Professional Development
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Project Description: With 47 schools, Kansas currently has more online education programs at the preK-12 level than any other state in the United States. Quillen (2010) noted that universities with teacher education programs are lagging behind in the training of future educators to teach online or in a blended format. Some states have begun drafting beginning teacher standards which would require pre-service teachers to be proficient in blended and online learning environments. As Emporia State University has been a leader in teacher education at both the state and national level, it seems appropriate that ESU would continue to be the forward thinking entity that would use the most current methods to prepare its pre-service teachers for the classrooms of the 21st century.

During the fall, 2011 semester, the Department of HPER is proposing to offer an “honors” course titled Teaching K-12 Health and Physical Education Online. For this course, ten undergraduate junior/senior level students will be selected to participate in this pilot opportunity. The goal of the course will be to prepare these students to teach K-12 health and physical education online. During the course, students will be introduced to online teaching strategies, methods, and assessments, as well as being provided practical experience teaching online.

Currently, the health and physical education students enrolled in the capstone methods course provide the health and physical education programs for Emporia Christian School (ECS) two days per week for eight weeks each semester. While the methods students continue these face-to-face teaching experiences at ECS, the students enrolled in the “honors” course will provide the health and physical education through an online format on the other weekdays. Offering this “honors” course would allow the department to pilot a course focused on preparing pre-service teachers to teach in the virtual environment. Faculty will be able to conduct various teaching trials to determine quality strategies in preparing virtual teachers. Once faculty are able to pilot such a program, they will then be able to more effectively design both undergraduate and graduate level courses for preparing majors to teach K-12 health and physical education online.

In preparation for teaching the pilot course in fall, 2011, four HPER faculty members (the methods teachers) will attend one of three conferences to participate in sessions on best practices in online teaching, as well as to provide them an opportunity to interact with other professionals from around the nation. These faculty members will be expected to return and share information with their HPER colleagues and others in the Teachers College. The choice of one of three conferences will allow the faculty to share their knowledge gained from three different sources. The conference choices are:

- Sloan-C Blended Learning Conference on March 28-29, 2011 in Chicago
- The United States Distance Learning Association Conference on May 1-4 in St. Louis
- The Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning on August 3-5, 2011 in Madison, Wisconsin

The following are the desired outcomes of the project:

- Familiarize faculty with the do’s and don’ts for preparing individuals to teach online.
• Pilot a teacher preparation course with ten pre-service teachers to teach in the online environment.
• Establish an initial online program with a local school that can be used in conjunction with either of the courses developed to prepare students to teach online.
• Provide a basis for the future development of two courses, one undergraduate and one graduate, designed to prepare students to teach K-12 health and physical education online.
• Prepare HPER faculty to become leaders on campus, within the state and across the nation in teaching online health and physical education at the K-12 level.

**Project Budget:** Estimated costs to send four HPER faculty members to the selected conferences for training in K-12 online teaching:

- Conference Registration: $500.00/person X 4 = $2000.00
- Hotel: $250.00/night X 4 nights = $1000.00
- Travel: $300.00/person X 4 = $1200.00
- Meals ($33.00/day): $150.00/person X 4 = $600.00

**TOTAL BUDGET:** $4800.00