The Perfect Marriage: Community Based and Online Learning

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The theoretical basis for this project follows the tenants of good online design which is student centered on the principles of:

- Project-based learning (Blumenfeld et al., 1991)
- Anchored instruction (Bransford & Stein, 1993)
- Situated learning (Brown, Collins & Duguid, 1989)
- Conditions of learning (Gagné, 1987)

These structures afford online learners the opportunity for in-depth investigations as they construct personally-meaningful artifacts that represent their learning.
Project Based Learning (PBL)

- PBL students learn content knowledge, skills and dispositions in the process of creating an authentic, realistic project modeled on a project an expert or professional might create.

- PBL guides provides a context for learners in real-life roles or situations to apply the tools of a knowledge domain in creating a project that engage learners in authentic tasks in which they explore open-ended professional situations.
Community Based Learning (CBL)

- Community based projects are an integral part of most student’s higher education experience.

- It has become a popular andragogical method that moves teaching and learning out of the traditional classroom and into the community.
Online Learning

- Online learning has also emerged as a popular andragogical practice
  - Continuing to gain popularity in higher education

- Each has distinct benefits for **teaching** and **learning**
  - Both provide instructors ways in which they can differentiate learning
The Nexus...

CBL

Online Learning
Challenges

- To consider merging these two practices may seem challenging and ultimately, to some, impossible.

- Some may discredit the instructor’s ability to appropriately monitor community based learning activities while teaching a course from a distance and that the assessment of a student’s work will be too challenging.
Purpose

- This presentation will provide examples and support for conducting CBL projects into an online course
- And demonstrate ways in which assessment can be very authentic and meaningful
- The examples used in this presentation are in the area of sport management
  - Application across other disciplines
Sport Event Audit

• Partnership with Girl’s on the Run of NE Florida
  • Benefit: National organization with 5K run on the same day across the nation

• Community based learning project a required part of the course

• Students work directly with the ED and the volunteer coordinator who then reports back to me with verification of hours and overall assessment of student participation

• Students submit two final projects – 1 written paper and a digital storybook that captures their experience over the course of the semester
Sample Digital Storybook
Facility Risk Analysis

- Partnership with DCPS
- Community engagement
- Share findings
- Motivates students
- Various challenges for implementation & assessment
Sample Reflections
Accountability & Assessment

accountability
/əˈkoun(t)əˈbɪləti/
noun
the fact or condition of being accountable; responsibility.
"their lack of accountability has corroded public respect"
synonyms: responsibility, liability, answerability
"there must be accountability for the expenditure of every public cent"

assessment
/əˈsesmənt/
noun
the evaluation or estimation of the nature, quality, or ability of someone or something.
"the assessment of educational needs"
synonyms: evaluation, judgment, rating, estimation, appraisal, analysis, opinion
More
Conclusion

- While it may seem to some as if online learning and community based learning are not compatible, we have found them to be the "Perfect Marriage."

Thank You!