The Perfect Marriage: Community Based and Online Learning

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Conceptual Framework

- 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
/əˈkountəb ili/  
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!