InterActiv Technology Conference a Success

Wisconsin school districts have invested substantially in interactive and mobile tools, yet development opportunities to help educators integrate digital learning meaningfully into the curriculum lags. The InterActiv Conference and Technology Academy, held at UW-Whitewater June 17-20, 2013, highlighted the innovative ways that teachers have developed content while taking into account students’ comfort with making technology part of their learning. With 325 teachers and presenters in attendance, and almost eighty hands-on sessions, the conference was a welcome forum for teachers and instructional professionals to share their creative solutions for digital learning.

Now in its fourth year (but the first year hosted by UW-Whitewater), presentations focused on mobile technologies, particularly iPads and interactive whiteboards. This year witnessed new interest in digital gaming, classroom applications of the Google suite of tools, learning platforms such as Edmoto and Web 2.0 tools such as Prezi and Animoto. New to the agenda this year was the two-day Technology Academy that followed the Interactiv Conference. In the Academy, 78 participants chose to focus on one technology issue as part of a three-credit course. UW-Whitewater, Burlington Schools, and Mukwonago Schools co-sponsored the Technology Academy.

The InterActiv Conference and Technology Academy were effective professional development opportunities for educators to explore technology with their peers and leaders in the field. The participants said it best with remarks such as "presenters that are classroom teachers or directly related to information technology are the BEST to learn from about technology that we can take back to our classrooms and schools in a seamless fashion" and "our district spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on iPads with no in-service on how to use them. I was truly amazed at all of the relevant and useful ways the iPad can be used." Look for the Conference and Academy to return to UW-Whitewater in 2014.
Fairhaven Lecture Series Celebrates Thirty Years

On Monday afternoons, just down the road from campus, you'll find scientists, educators, artists, and economists sharing their knowledge and expertise with an eager group of lifelong learners. Since 1983, Continuing Education has been partnering with Fairhaven Senior Services to deliver the Fairhaven Lecture Series to community members in the greater Whitewater area. Focused each semester around a single theme, the lectures explore everything from politics to music to international relations. Over 300 presenters have delivered more than 700 lectures in the past 30 years, and it is estimated that 25,000 people have attended these free events.

The Fairhaven Lecture Series has become a source of information and ideas for community members of all ages. "The residents at Fairhaven have lived and experienced life and they have the same concerns today as they did growing up, but in a much broader sense," notes Gloria Madsen, director of leisure services and volunteer coordinator at Fairhaven. "They're concerned about what is going to be left for their grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, and the lectures help them better understand our world." UW-Whitewater faculty members teach hundreds of college students each semester and contribute to the lifelong learning of beyond campus borders. "We all hope that the lecture series will continue for 30 more years" Madsen says.

This fall, lectures will reflect on the critical events and influential people that have shaped our lives since the Fairhaven Lecture Series began in 1983. Topics include Hurricane Katrina, nanotechnology, politics and social media, and Wal-Mart. Two lectures will focus specifically on people and programs at UW-Whitewater. Please join us for this special series, won't you?

Did you know...
This summer, 5,838 athletes, musicians, educators, grandparents, and students attended nearly 60 different camps, conferences, academies, and clinics this summer at UW-Whitewater. Continuing Education Services, along with 741 coaches, camp counselors, speakers, and session leaders, delivered a wide variety of programs for youth and adults from all over the region. Wow!