Educators Learn to Integrate Gaming in the Classroom

Video games inspire kids to be adventurous, solve problems, and experiment by capturing their interest. Educators are recognizing the value of video games and engagement in learning in the classroom, and looking to experts in innovative technology for resources. This fall, teachers, administrators, students, and media designers came together at UW-Whitewater for the Playful Learning Summit to explore ways in which gaming and innovation enhance teaching and learning.

Nearly 500 people attended the two-day summit to learn about and share ways games and digital media can be integrated into the classroom to promote high impact learning through several hands-on learning labs and interactive workshops, and presentations from national experts, including the former senior policy analyst for the U.S. White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Face-to-face sessions were also offered through live stream to other college campuses and international locations.

Though it has only been a couple of months since the summit was held, conference coordinator, Dr. Beth King (Educational Foundations), is optimistic about what the future holds and the role UW-Whitewater can play. "We are looking at the possibility of a new major or certificate in this area," King says. "There is real potential for this campus, especially the College of Education and Professional Studies, to move this field forward."
Lincoln's Legacy Examined in the Spring Fairhaven Lecture Series

It has been nearly 150 years since Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, yet the legacy and lessons from his life and time live on. As part of the sesquicentennial remembrance of the Civil War, the Spring Fairhaven Lecture Series will examine the precipitating factors and lasting effects of this critical time in American history. Lectures in the series, "The Legacy and Lessons of the Age of Lincoln" will explore such issues as constitutional amendments from the Civil War, the promise of reconstruction, and whether slavery exists today. Presenters will discuss literature from the era, Lincoln in popular culture, and the darker side of the American icon. On April 21, UW-Whitewater students will premiere their documentary on an oral history service learning project as part of the National Veteran's History Project, a program rooted in a Lincoln initiative. Lectures begin on February 3 at 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall of Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater and are scheduled through May 5. All lectures are free and open to the public.
Education Outreach Grants Lead to $85,000 Investment in the Education of Whitewater Children and Families

Three faculty members from the College of Education and Professional Studies and an administrator from the Whitewater Unified School District are leading projects to improve teaching and learning in the Whitewater Community. Elizabeth King (Educational Foundations) and Katrina Liu (Curriculum and Instruction) have been awarded an Education Outreach grant in the amount of $40,155 for their project, Linking to LINCS: A Model for Co-Created Professional Development Based on Next Generation Learning Models. This project builds a collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership with Lincoln Inquiry Charter School (LINCS) for the purpose of redesigning LINCS’ curricular process to focus on student personalized learning as the primary curricular delivery method.

The goal of this initiative is to improve student performance through continuous individualized learning at both the student and teacher level. Candace Head-Dylla (Curriculum and Instruction) and Kelly Seichter (Whitewater Unified School District) received a $44,082 Education Outreach grant for their project, The Whitewater Community Literacy Center - First Steps. Through the collaborative efforts UW-Whitewater, the Whitewater Unified School District, and area businesses, this project seeks to develop a literacy center to increase early learners’ pre-reading skills as well as the literacy skills of adults, targeting family and individuals who are Hispanic and/or economically disadvantaged in the district. The project also seeks to involve UW-Whitewater pre-service teachers by offering opportunities for real-world application of their craft.

The Education Outreach grant program is funded by the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education to improve PK-12 student learning, teacher education, educator professional development, and school performance in southeastern Wisconsin.

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