Newsletter

Duke Energy Sustainable Energy Experience

Summer 2015 Opportunity

From July 12th - July 17th, Rose-Hulman PRISM will be facilitating the Duke Energy Sustainable Energy Institute on the Rose-Hulman campus. This institute has been funded by Duke Energy of Indiana. Indiana 9-12 Agriculture and Science teachers teaching units on sustainable energy (or will be) are invited to apply. The purpose of this institute is to provide the teachers a true "boot camp experience" in sustainable energies combining academic professional development on the Rose-Hulman campus with vocational experience through site visits to some alternative energy providers in Indiana.

During the institute, teachers are to be developing standards based, practical and comprehensive lesson plans for topics on sustainable energy. Time will be given each day for lessons to be developed and actually "challenge questions" will be provided each day to guide the development of lesson plans.

Upon completion and having had full participation in the institute, participant teachers will receive Microsoft Surface devices. This will include a Type Cover and the Surface Pen. Teachers can also receive, upon completion of the institute, 50 PGP's for Indiana Teacher License renewal.

All participants will be housed on the Rose-Hulman campus in a residents hall during the institute. Meals will be provided through Food & Dining Services in the student union.

Duke Energy Sustainable Energy Experience - continued

Eligibility Requirements:

- Teacher must live in a <u>Duke Energy Service Area</u> (click to view the map)
- Teacher must be an Agriculture or Science teacher teaching units on sustainable energy (or will teach the course in the future).
- Teacher has 0-10 years of teaching experience.

Main Topics:

- U.S. Power Grid
- Energy Conservation
- Solar Energy
- Geothermal Energy
- Wind Energy
- Bio-refining
- Nuclear Energy

Alternative Energy Site Visits:

- Duke Energy - Cayuga Power Plant
- IND Solar Farm - Indianapolis International Airport
- Ball State University Geothermal Facilities
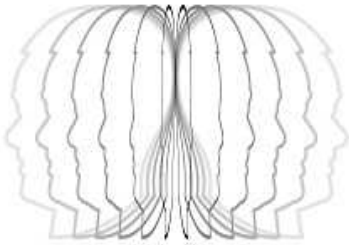- POET Bio-refining - Cloverdale, IN

To register for this event, visit the PRISM website, log-in (create an account if you do not have one), and click the 'Event Registration' link in the Main Menu. Use the drop-down menu to select the Duke Energy Sustainable Energy Experience option. You will see a complete description of the course. To sign up, scroll down and enter your information. You should receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us.

Please register as soon as possible! We have limited availability for this exciting summer opportunity.

My Big Campus Transitioning to Dashboard Model

by Laura Devaney Director of News
eSchool News

Learning Management System will Evolve to Support Mobile and Digital Learning

Learning management system (LMS) My Big Campus, from Lightspeed Systems, will transition into a teacher dashboard and campus library in an attempt to align its functionality with what educators actually want from classroom tools, according to the company.

In an online FAQ page, Lightspeed Systems notes that My Big Campus "will be re-focused on its core feature: the Campus Library, a single hub to give teachers simple management and easy access to their content and tools. It will be a key component of a new teacher dashboard and will be available to customers of any of our solutions." The announcement comes at a time when the future of the LMS market is in flux, as many educators express a desire for more social functions, increased flexibility, and a better way to collect, access, and interpret student data.

Why the change? According to Lightspeed Systems: "A top-down LMS platform is neither what schools are asking us for nor where we have the greatest potential to help our customers. Instead, we'll be able to focus on the 5,000 (and growing) districts that rely on us to support their networks with safe, secure access to digital content and powerful management features. This will allow us to excel where we can make the greatest difference for schools: safe and easy access to the growing number of digital resources and tools."
"Expectations have changed for what an LMS needs to be today. Districts expect Facebook-like social classroom features front-and-center," said Dallas Kachan, VP of marketing for LMS upstart Edsby, when the announcement was made. "The days of teachers or schools being able to download and run LMS-like software themselves willy-nilly are limited. More and more districts are learning they require district-managed systems that give them the tools for consistent assessment and reporting, and a way to enforce security and confidentiality policies."
The teacher dashboard and campus library are not an updated LMS model, but will function as a teacher-focused solution to help teachers manage devices and web access while sharing digital content in a safe environment.
The campus library will help teachers gain access to multiple resources and content, and it will integrate with Office 365 and Google Apps content. It also will offer access to potentially blocked content, such as YouTube, along with enhanced sharing capabilities.
The teacher dashboard will help educators balance IT and classroom management.
My Big Campus users can continue using the LMS as they always have, and can complete a form on the FAQ page to work with the Lightspeed Systems team to prepare for content migration.
Lightspeed Systems offers a preview of the teacher dashboard here, and will announce more details about the transition soon.

Read more online at: http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/03/20/my-big-campus-764/

Create a class of GPS explorers with geocaching

by Cheryl Phillips
eSchool News

Geocaching no longer requires expensive equipment, making it much more accessible to beginners. For students, an expensive and elaborate GPS device isn't necessary. GPS enabled smartphones offer the most economic option for geocaching, as many students already own the equipment, and need only purchase a geocaching app to participate.

For younger students, or those without smartphones, look for a device that is user friendly for inputting waypoints, accessible—and most importantly—durable. Expect to pay around sixty dollars per unit. I use the Garmin eTrex 10 Worldwide Handheld GPS Navigator with my students—though it is a bit more expensive than the Geomate Jr. Geocaching GPS.

Most geocaching is done in groups, so regardless of the device used, a successful geocaching lesson only requires a few devices. I have seven devices, which works out beautifully with a class of 25-30 students. For financial support, don't forget to use the school's PTO/PTA grants, fund raisers and Donors Choose (of course, purchasing a device will be a tax write-off!).

Here are a few of the smartphone apps I use with my students:
Geocaching **($9.99)**. The official geocaching app from Geocaching.com (the Mothership of geochaching), this is the most expensive app on the market as well as the highest quality. Users will get access to the locations of registered caches and clues, and the app even offers the ability to submit your finds. This app is very easy to use and perfect for beginners and pros.

Geocaching Intro **(Free)**. This is the free version of the GroundSpeak geocaching app, the company that runs the Geocaching.com website. This is the app that I recommend to my students. While limited, this app reveals three geocaches near your current location per day; provides the necessary coordinates, hints, and descriptions; and delivers the directions to the hidden cache. I love the vibrating-chirping alert that warns you when you're getting close to the cache site—a feature not included on the more expensive sister geocaching app.

Once equipped with devices, it's time to engage the students in a meaningful lesson that will challenge their map-reading skills while affording them opportunities to work collaboratively and solve a problem.

There are several activities I have done with my students, from upper elementary to high school. To start, all students were taught how the device worked and learned how to input data as well as retrieve and set their own waypoints. Our fifth grade students became such experts that the principal asked them to lead the staff in professional development. From there, our principal hid staff handbooks all around the campus and had the teachers use the coordinates (and help of their fifth-grade buddies) to locate their handbook.

Activities can range from solving riddles to searching for hidden rubber ducks to embarking on geometry scavenger hunts. For a beginner lesson, hide caches near a specific tree, bush, or flower. Once students have located the cache, have them take a picture and identify the species of flora. (Placing a leaf from the tree or plant in the container would also work). You could also place a toy animal, picture, tooth, claw or hair sample inside the cache container and have students identify the object. Once all caches have been found, have them create a photo/identification booklet.

Read more online at: http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/03/30/geocaching-classroom-247/

Professional Development Opportunities

2015 Summer of eLearning

The 2015 Summer of eLearning marks a new milestone for our tradition of supporting high-quality professional learning in Indiana. This year, our summer conference series spans 28 days in June and July, features 24 host locations, and is supported by the work of 41 school districts!

To see the list of events, visit the Indiana Department of Education website.

eLead Madison County
https://sites.google.com/site/eleadmadisonco/home-1

Perry Central Community Schools
http://www.pccs.k12.in.us/powered-up.html

PowerED Up

Inspiring Teachers. Empowering Students.

Upcoming Events

PRISM April Moodle Training Courses

Basic Moodle for Teachers - A basic introduction to Moodle 2.8.5. You will learn how to build a classroom course and populate it with files, assignments, and quizzes.
April 21 - May 19

Intermediate Moodle for Teachers -A continuation from the Basic Moodle for Teachers course. Choose this course if you already have Moodle experience and would like to learn how to use some of the more advanced features like wikis, databases, lessons, and RSS feeds.
April 22 - May 20

Advanced Moodle for Teachers - A continuation from the Intermediate Moodle for Teachers course. This course will take the Intermediate level course a step further as participants learn advanced gradebook features, groups and groupings, conditional activities, and the workshop activity module.
April 23 - May 21

If you would like to register for a course, please visit the PRISM website, log in, and click the 'Event Registration' link. Use the drop-down menu to select the appropriate course. You will see a complete description of the course. To sign up, scroll down and enter your information. You should receive a confirmation email.

What PRISM Can Do For You!

- Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 4,000.

- Save a list of your favorite resources for quick retrieval.

- Create and share lesson plans that teach your subjects utilizing your favorite resources.

- Develop online classrooms with interactive assignments, lessons, quizzes and more!

- Store your classroom materials online so that they are available to you from any computer.

- Reach your students more effectively by using web media for the digital age.

- Earn PGP points by completing PRISM led online Moodle course – either Beginning Moodle or Intermediate Moodle courses are available to you at no cost several times throughout the year.

- Select from free learning resources that emphasize visualization, rich context, staged-problem solving, and electronically enabled collaboration / communication.

- Augment your own dynamic presence in the classroom with teaching tools that mirror the skills needed for success in higher education and the 21st Century workplace.

*Through our strong support from the **Lilly Endowment** and others, we are constantly growing and improving. Check our site regularly to see what new resources you can use in your classroom.*

www.rose-prism.org

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PRISM is a free website that provides collections of online resources for Indiana educators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The primary collection of digital teaching materials is indexed according to the Indiana Academic Standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and secondary education courses.