Leadership Alerts

Articles & Links on Educational Leadership, Tech and Customer Service

Compiled & edited by VCC Library Jan. 18 2013

Sun, J., Flores, J., & Tanguma, J. (2012). **E-Textbooks and Students' Learning Experiences**. *Decision Sciences Journal Of Innovative Education*, *10*(1), 63-77. doi:10.1111/j.1540-4609.2011.00329.x

The contribution of the e-textbooks can be enormous considering their additional supporting features, but adoption has not crystallized yet. This study examines the relevant experiences of college students in terms of how the use of e-textbooks may enhance their learning. A survey study was conducted to measure the perceptions of each student on how helpful an e-textbook is for facilitating learning (i.e., E-book Helpfulness), how well it promotes his/her involvement in learning (i.e., Student Involvement), and how much improvement it makes on learning outcome (i.e., Learning Outcome). Results indicate that e-textbooks are perceived as enhancers of student learning experiences in two complementing routes: (1) E-textbook Helpfulness enhances students' learning outcomes directly and (2) Student Involvement plays an important mediating role between E-textbook Helpfulness and Learning Outcome if students use e-textbooks in class. These findings suggest that the successful adoption of e-textbooks requires schools to provide necessary resources (e.g., computer labs) and instructors to actively engage students in using e-textbooks.

LEWINGTON, J. (2011). **In Canada, New Strategies to Help a Fast-Growing Aboriginal Student Sector**. *Chronicle Of Higher Education*, *58*(14), A15-A16.

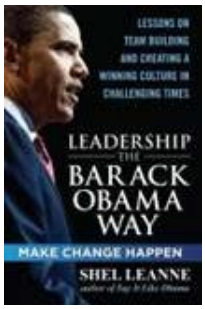
The article presents an overview of several programs that have been

IN THIS ISSUE:

Top Management Journals

BOOKSHELF SPOTLIGHT

Leadership the Barack Obama way : lessons on teambuilding and creating a winning culture in challenging times



Quick brainstorming activities for busy managers : 50 exercises to spark your team's creativity and get results fast

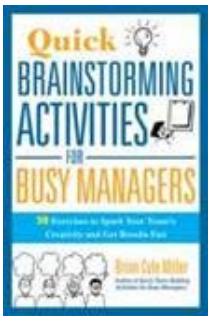
established in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan to prepare and recruit First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students for college. Particular focus is given to partnership programs formed between institutions such as the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology with local high schools in Canada with large populations of aboriginal students. Other topics include the growth of the young indigenous population in Saskatchewan, the history of discrimination against aboriginal students in Canada's higher education system, and dropout prevention strategies used by colleges in regards to enrolled students.

BROWN, J. L. (2012). **DEVELOPING A FRESHMAN ORIENTATION SURVEY TO IMPROVE STUDENT RETENTION WITHIN A COLLEGE.** *College Student Journal*, *46*(4), 834-851.
With growing concerns over higher education accountability and diminishing resources, student retention rates and the reasons why students remain at a post-secondary institution continue to persist. Since the 1960s, researchers have examined cognitive and non-cognitive factors that impact whether or not students stay at a particular post-secondary institution until graduation. The purpose of this study was to develop the Freshman Orientation Survey for the College of Education and Health Professions to improve student retention. Using the constructs, which were presented in peer-reviewed literature along with a peer-review process within the College, a survey instrument was developed to examine pre-college enrollment characteristics for a College within a four-year state university in the Southeastern United States. The instrument was piloted with alumni from the College, and the psychometric properties of the instrument were determined. The survey was found to be an internally consistent measure, and it was found to have convergent validity and discriminate validity.

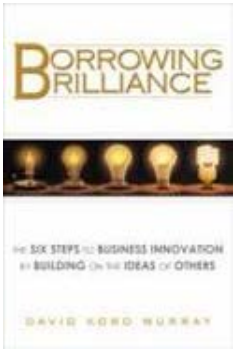
Wang, C., Jaeger, D., Liu, J., Guo, X., & Xie, N. (2013). **Using Synchronous Technology to Enrich Student Learning**. *Techtrends:*

To explore the potential applications of synchronous technology to enrich student learning, faculty members from an American regional state university and a Chinese regional university collaborated to find appropriate ways to integrate synchronous technology (e.g., Adobe Connect) into an educational technology program in the American university and in an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) program in China. The paper reports the collaborative efforts in a project (from Fall 2010 to Spring 2012) using Adobe Connect to enrich student learning at both sites. The report includes the project overview, project implementation and its evaluation framework. Finally, the paper offers practical suggestions for using synchronous technologies such as Adobe Connect for instruction when implementing such an international project in two different countries.

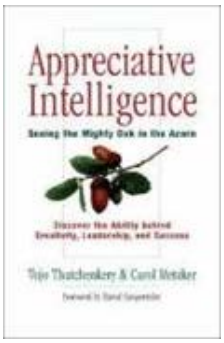
Argyris, C. (2002). **Teaching Smart People How to Learn.** *Reflections*, *4*(2), 4-15. doi:10.1162/152417302762251291
Focuses on the dilemma faced by modern corporations on teaching executives to learn. Reason behind the difficulty faced by companies in addressing the dilemma; Mistakes of companies in trying to become a learning organization; Ways in which professionals avoid learning; Commentaries on the article.



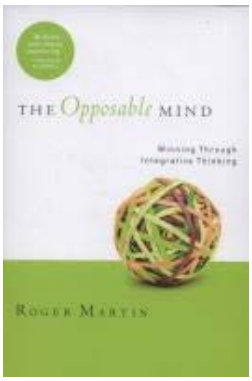
Borrowing brilliance : the six steps to business innovation by building on the ideas of others



Appreciative intelligence : seeing the mighty oak in the acorn



The opposable mind : winning through integrative thinking



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