

**Career Development 2018
Leadership 3.0 Symposium
Transform The Way You Lead
Collaboratively produced by ACSA, CUE & TICAL
12-14 Apr 2018
San Francisco, CA
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This year I was able to use my career development grant to attend the 10th annual Leadership 3.0 Symposium. This was my third opportunity to attend this annual conference. It provided a great opportunity to meet colleagues from around our nation who are successfully using technology to educate their students and lead their sites.

I selected this conference because of the leadership focus of the presenters with a strong background of educational technology. I also was interested in continuing to cultivate connections with other educators outside of Alaska to give me some fresh perspective and cross pollination of ideas.

The theme for the conference was, "Transform The Way You Lead." The keynote speakers were excellent choices for promoting this theme. John Eick started the conference with a high energy keynote that gave us all an encouragement to move our staffs to new horizons in their instructional practices. He challenged us to think about how we can move even the most resistant staff member to be successful. Particularly, he provided an example of using the metaphor of a rubber band and how each person has a unique amount of stretch that we can exert on them toward a goal. John would be a good choice to follow up with our district. His inclusive and excited style of delivery would provide the impetus for some more of our folks to get on board the instructional technology train. Mark West followed on Friday with a policy presentation that challenged us to look closely at the idea that technology is going to make the difference on its own. He clearly made the point that education is still about the quality of the instructor and the level of

their instructional expertise, technology is just one of the tools that a great teacher will incorporate in their instructional practices.

Between these special keynotes I was able to attend several program sessions dealing with specific educational uses of technology. Some of those uses that are being extensively applied across the curriculums by educators at all levels are the Web 2.0 tools. These are free tools, available to anyone with web access and they continue to have extensive possibilities for applications in education. The incredible tools that are available just at the Google site are a tremendous resource that is just waiting to be used instructionally. One session that I attended showed us how to use the Google sheets to track information related to our staff and their many uses. I continue to come away from these program sessions thinking that we really have a long way to go in terms of true integration of these tools. We are making some good progress though. This is especially true when I review that ten years ago when I went to my first CUE conference in 2008 we did not even have access to the Google tools.

When the conference ended I felt encouraged by the ideas and the discussion that had occurred. It also challenged me again to think beyond my local area of responsibility and to somehow work for change that will affect our district. Our district is blessed with a great technological infrastructure but we still must increase our capacity for the integration of technology. I was also pleased with what I had learned and excited to share those ideas, which I think indicates a successful experience. Many thanks to all of the individuals in our district that support on going professional development for educators and make it possible for me to attend these kinds of high quality programs!



4-26-18