

**Career Development 2019
Northwest Council for Computer Education
NCCE Annual Conference
26-28 Feb 2019
Seattle, WA
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This year I was able to use my career development grant to attend the 2019 NCCE Annual Conference in Seattle, WA. This was my first opportunity to attend this annual conference. It provided a great opportunity to meet colleagues from around the Pacific Northwest 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 keynote speakers were excellent choices for promoting the integration of technology in instruction. Jason Latimer opened the conference with a high-energy keynote that challenged us to make sure that we never lose the wonder of learning and that we need to encourage that sense of wonder in our students. He challenged us to think about how we can help our students ask the kinds of questions that Google cannot answer immediately and dig into the excitement of learning and finding their own answers. Gerry Brooks followed on Thursday with a presentation that challenged us to look closely at how culture and climate is so important in our field of work. He clearly made the point that an educational environment is a better place for learning when the culture and climate are positive.

Between these special keynotes I was able to attend several program sessions dealing with specific educational uses of technology. Some of those tools extensively applied across the curriculums by educators at all levels are the Google 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 at the Google site are tremendous resources just waiting for instructional use. One session that I attended showed us how to use YouTube to produce instructional videos that students can access asynchronously and free up the instructor to provide meaningful one-on-one time instruction. 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 and as we pursue a Personalized Learning approach, it becomes even more evident. This is especially true when I review that eleven 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 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!

Sean Duak

3/7/19