

**Career Development Grant Report for:  
Douglas Waclawski  
FETC Technology Conference Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**

There were several areas I was interested in investigating when I signed up for FETC conference. Here is what I found discovered and, more importantly, how I can use this information at Homer High School.

**1. Transforming Schools with a STEM Makerspace**

The part about makerspaces that excites me and makes me think they would be a good fit for Homer High School is that the design of a makerspace is geared toward creativity, problem solving and application of what students have learned. How a makerspace works is you give students an open-ended challenge, hand students the tools to explore and let them loose. For example, a teacher can provide and challenge to students to design a better doorstep or even redesign something in a household to make it better. The school provides computers, software, 3D printers and other materials. I want to create a makerspace at HHS geared towards making anything in our community better. This will be similar to the “Caring for the Kenai” program.

**2. Changing Student Engagement in the Classroom**

This presentation was actually about different applications you can use with students to increase their engagement. Here are some of the apps that interested me and that I will share with my staff.

- Premiere Clip – This is a free app that allows you to trim video clips, change audio, slow down clips, change exposure and add sound tracks all on your phone or tablet.
- TED-Ed – This free program allows a teacher to take TED talk videos and make interactive lessons out of them, including adding interactive quizzes and tests. This could be especially valuable for blended learning lessons.
- Timeline JS – This is free timeline software that allows students to add pictures, dates, and information into a database. Once this is done, the software automatically makes a fancy online multimedia timeline.

**3. 5 Easy-to-use Apps to Make Your School a Digital Leader**

Here are some software and apps that could help make me a better leader or help make my teachers more effective:

- Quizlet Live – This app is similar to Kahoot, but you can put students into groups and if someone gets a questions wrong, your team loses all your points. While Kahoot makes students want to answer faster, Quizlet Live makes students go slower and more deliberately.
- Google Tone – This app allows teacher to plan a sound clip which when it plays every computer in the classroom will automatically go to a website. This is a classroom management dream. And decreases down time going to a particular website.

- Formative – This app allows teachers to create formative assessments that ties every question to state standards and then track how each student does with those standards.
- Team Shake – While this app sound mundane because all it does is break students into groups live in a classroom, the most useful thing about this it is that you can set criteria ahead of time such as keeping 2 students from ever getting in the same group.
- Remind – This program allows me to send texts or audio to all parents or staff. This will definitely be useful and timely for HHS. I always try to get information out in the public in as many ways as possible and this will be another good method to use.

#### **4. Improving Outcomes For Students with Special Needs with Sketchnotes**

I think Sketchnotes is one of the most exciting things that I learned about at this conference. The interesting thing is that it isn't really technology related. This is a visual note taking program that helps all students take notes, but especially helps special needs students. It uses icons and visual representations instead of words where possible. Once this system is taught, even students with writing difficulties can do this and it has shown to be more effective than regular note taking. I plan on presenting this to our staff at one of our in-service days.

#### **Summary**

This was a good conference and I plan on getting most of this information to my teachers as soon as possible. I learned about and want to use over 30 computer programs or apps and I have enough information on 3D printing to feel comfortable purchasing and implementing a 3D printer into the curriculum. I feel this conference will help keep Homer High School up-to-date with technology trends.

Douglas Waclawski



1/31/17