

11/14/2017
Carstens Career Dev
November 3 – 5, 2017
Dallas, TX

International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE)

The first time I really looked at the ICLE was when I was in a meeting with Mr. Dusek back in early September. We spoke about innovation, blending, and how best our different state educational associations can work together for all kids. Which in turn piqued my interest in the ICLE.

Leading with a Transformational Mindset, Dr. Bill Daggett (Keynote):

The insight gleaned from Dr. Daggett and the way he presented it was extremely eye opening. He spoke about the 4th industrial revolution (IR) that we are on the cusp of entering into. This IR consists of NanoTech and BioTech and the marriage of these two industries. We've always heard the old adage of "We are preparing these students for jobs that do not exist right now", but until now many of us really did not know the reason behind this statement. Sure we have changing technology, but what exactly is it changing to? How will it integrate into old technologies as well? Dr. Daggett actually gives us an answer, but also gives us data into the ever increasing challenges of educating each student that comes through our doors. Along with entering into the new IR, our nation's demographics are changing as well. Currently we sit at 4.1% of our 12th grade students as English Learners, but 16.7% of our Kindergartners are English Learners. Not only do we need to prepare students with skills, but to also connect with students, determine their strengths, and leverage technology in order to make them successful in school and beyond. Additionally, our nation has gradually shifted and life expectancy rates over the last 60 years have increased by 10 years; because of this people are moving away from paying for products and are now paying for services. In short, Dr. Daggett talks about schools shifting from having a focus on content to having a focus on skills and integrating disciplines so that students can translate their skills across the curriculum. In their research of the top 10 skills that companies look for when they hire, they include:

1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Critical Thinking
3. Creativity
4. People Management
5. Coordinating with Others
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. Active Listening
8. Service Orientation
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive Flexibility

(Source: ICLE, Bill Daggett 2017)

The bottom line is that we will need to facilitate learning that will assist our students to apply knowledge and skills to real-world, predictable and unpredictable situations.

Bold School, Weston Kieschnick (Keynote)

Probably one of the best instructional keynotes I've been to, Weston Kieschnick brought a completely research based instructional toolbox together with how to best blend these strategies with technology tools. The "bold school" methods utilize Dr. John Hattie's meta-analysis of over 1200 educational studies that describe the top 11 highest yielding instructional strategies combined with blending how to implement technology components to make these strategies more engaging for today's students through modern technological advances. The focal points of his address were:

1. Technology is awesome, but teachers are better: his contention here is that education is not broken (based on increased graduation rates for many years in a row) and that the basis for a solid education is the relationship between teacher and student, based on cited evidence, is the number one factor in student learning and success.
2. It is the instructional outcome that matters the most: here he contends that many technology tools are a distraction or used as a reward when not implemented correctly. The technology should enhance the strategies, which are used based on what the lesson outcome should be.

As the conference progressed, the remaining sessions discussed the importance of schools having a culture ready for learning. In other words, everything that happens in the school supports student learning, success, creativity, curiosity and risk taking. Additionally, it is important that the leaders are not afraid to step out of their comfort zone to model these behaviors to all stake holders. They talk about progressing through steps and processes to make this happen, all the while realizing that it all takes time, ownership and buy in from all members of the community. Similar to what we are going through with our personalized learning initiative.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Carstens

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dusk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

11/17/17