SESSION DESCRIPTION

Working with many districts in Ohio, as well as 49 additional states in the U.S., Jefferson County Educational Service Center (JCESC), is able to hear the many needs that districts have. Many districts are searching for a way to incorporate 21st Century Skills into K-12 learning, whether online or in a traditional classroom setting.   Districts have also faced the hurdle of finding the time and funding to train teachers in the use of online tools. This presentation will explore examples of how JCESC's Virtual Learning Academy curriculum development team, composed of Highly Qualified Teachers, uses online tools to increase technology skills in their online courses. The presenters will walk through these examples in detail, covering a variety of subject areas, including Math, World Languages and Fine Arts.

Charged with integrating 21st Century Skills, teachers can use technology to nurture the creativity of their students. In both traditional classroom settings and online learning environments, students can explore their creativity and build confidence in their skills, while becoming more proficient in information, media and technology skills.

Teachers can meet students in an environment where they are most interested, and fit their many different styles of learning. Teachers can create a student-centric learning environment that offers students the opportunity to customize the ways in which they obtain and comprehend information. This can be displayed in projects, content review, research or application, using both individual work and student collaboration.

OBJECTIVES

Attendants will learn the method and capabilities of these online tools, so they can incorporate them into their own classroom, as well as teach students how to safely learn about social networking and use Online Tools to promote and share their work.

Some examples of the tools presenters will explore include creating: animated videos, classroom or project websites, interactive posters, as well as cloud-based presentations and online environments for student collaboration, which can be used for training, tutoring, creative brainstorming and student collaboration.

Teachers will see examples of how online tools are used in Virtual Learning Academy's online courses, and be able to utilize the same tools in their classrooms. Teachers can take the information they have obtained

in this presentation and customize it to fit the needs of their students, as well as varied subject areas and grade levels. By applying these tools, teachers will help students grow their skills to develop critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity, while challenging them in information, media and technology skills.

SESSION WEBSITE: http://jcesctech.weebly.com/

This session is presented by:

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The Jefferson County Educational Service Center Virtual Learning Academy is a cooperative, online educational delivery system. It offers 100 full year and semester courses for students in grades K-12. Since the organization began in 2001, the VLA staff is continually expanding the courses with the latest Web 2.0 Learning Tools to offer students the most fulfilling and engaging coursework available. With these new additions and enhancements, VLA can provide 21st Century Skills to students, as well as meet the many varied needs of student learners.