Online Communities Scan

Manuel F. Negron

New Jersey City University

My dissertation topic will look at the "Digital Divide/Use Divide" and the impact that it has on active learning and student achievement. The study will analyze the impact that the accessibility, integration, and/or use of technology has on student achievement and active learning in the classroom. I found it difficult to find online communities that focused specifically on this topic, but I did find several Principal/School Leader communities that discuss everyday issues that we face in schools. While a lack of technology accessibility and/or use may not be an issue in some schools, it is definitely an issue in many others.

Webliography

**Digital Citizenship Network**

Description: This community supports educators in ensuring the appropriate, safe, and responsible use of technology to support teaching and learning.

URL: https://connect.iste.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=dd15879f-d471-4a25-87eb-d8a56b45df3c

Number of Members: 4,700

Goals: To offer a structure for learning with technology by providing examples of technology can be used responsibly and effectively to promote student creativity and interaction with peers globally.

Highlights: While this community did not have any upcoming events, they had over 800 discussions, shared student cell phone policies, student/teacher resources for data presentations, and various interviews.

**Digital Equity Network**

Description: A community that strives to have influential discussions and plans of action to assure accessibility and opportunities for all learners

URL: https://connect.iste.org/communities/community-home?communitykey=938df36f-3d52-4656-b1ed-937f7ca90b75&tab=groupdetails

Number of Members: 2,100

Goals: To challenge the status quo in terms of the “digital divide” while providing up-to-date information and resources to assist school leaders make key decisions concerning technology infrastructures and digital learning.

Highlights: This community has an “announcements” heading in which they listed future webinars, leadership guides, and teacher preparation support in terms of digital equity.

**EDTech Google+**

Description: A community where educators, technologists, students, researchers, innovators and enthusiasts can discuss the various roles of technology in education.

URL: https://plus.google.com/communities/113018638134660266670

Number of Members: 55,469

Goals: To have a collaborative and open resource for the world to share their stories, research and findings in educational technology. This community wants members to view it as place where you can grow, converse, question and laugh about things that matter to you and ideas that will move the world forward.

Highlights: This community has conducted actual research on what makes a community succeed, what makes them thrive, and what makes them fail.

**Education Leaders Network**

Description: This community supports school and district leaders through the promotion of the use of instructional technologies to increase student learning. As a community, they explore key factors that affect a positive learning return on the investment in technology.

URL: https://connect.iste.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=f453ebab-cf58-46d2-a52b-77e40be08f71

Number of Members: 4,000

Goals: To discuss and share best practices, participation in online events and sharing the latest online articles and research.

Highlights: This community has several events that are being held next month on the effective use of ISTE standards and ways to use Edtech for social good. They also have over 600 discussion posts.

**Leadership 3.0: Essential Skills for Innovative Leaders – Sponsored by Dreambox Learning**

Description: A professional learning community where educational leaders collaborate on innovative strategies to help teachers grow professionally, advance student learning, and improve communications with all stakeholders.

URL: www.edweb.net/leadership

Number of Members: 9,601

Goals: To support educators who take on leadership roles in improving K-12 teaching, learning, school culture, and performance.

Highlights: DreamBox Learning is the only K-8 digital math program powered by students, built by and for educators, and independently proven to positively impact student achievement.

**Leadership and Innovation**

Description: An online professional learning community for collaboration on leadership and innovation in schools to meet the needs of the future generation through personalized/active learning and expanding STEM opportunities for students who are underrepresented in these high-growth, high-paying fields.

URL: www.edweb.net/leadersplc

Number of Members: 1,381

Goals: To unite education leaders and innovative practitioners together to move forward quicker with reimagining education.

Highlights: This community will combine an online community with live edWebinars that will be recorded for continued viewing.

**Principal Principles Leadership Group**

Description: A professional learning network for future and current school leaders that share ideas and resources.

URL: https://www.facebook.com/groups/principalprinciplesleadership/

Number of Members: 23,061

Goals: To consistently share thoughts, ideas, and resources “everyday”.

Highlights: This group is growing rapidly. It was created three years ago and had 50 new members on the day that I looked them up and has had 1,864 members join in the last 30 days.

**Principal Leadership: Making a Difference – (Sponsored by (NASSP) National Association of Secondary School Principals)**

Description: A professional learning community to assist school leaders achieve excellence through collaboration, resources, and professional development to assure that all students are prepared for postsecondary learning opportunities and be workforce ready.

URL: www.edweb.net/nassp

Number of Members: 2,321

Goals: To address and discuss the many issues facing school leaders today. This community provides opportunities to connect with colleagues and engage in discussions around the most pressing issues facing our schools today.

Highlights: This community does not have frequent posts. The last post was created in November 2018 and they rarely have webinars. They have one upcoming webinar in May. This may be due to the hectic schedule of a school leader.

**Principal Life**

Description: A Facebook group created for Principals, Assistant Principals and other school leaders.

URL: https://www.facebook.com/groups/PrincipalLife/

Number of Members: 13,475

Goals: To provide support for school instructional leaders and teams to ask questions and share advice.

Highlights: This group is growing rapidly. It was created less than two years ago and has had 1,020 members join in the last 30 days. It also established and posted group rules and norms on its main page. They are also very active in posting daily. They had 28 posts on the day I looked them up and 1,227 posts in the last 30 days.

**Technology in Schools**

Description: A professional learning community where all instructional leaders can share ideas, examples, and resources that relate to integrating technology effectively in schools.

URL: www.edweb.net/Technology

Number of Members: 6,511

Goals: To have live chats so all attendees can collaborate and contribute to the discussion.

Highlights: As a member of this community, you will receive CE certificates for attending and viewing edWebinars.

**Tech Tools for the Classroom**

Description: A community where educators can discover new resources, free technology, and effective ideas for integrating technology into the classroom to engage and inspire students.

URL: www.edweb.net/techtools

Number of Members: 19, 821

Goals: To provide an easy way to continue through conversation and share ideas and experiences with other teachers and educators around the country.

Highlights: This community hosts free monthly edWebinars and live chats that are interactive and engaging.