Discussion 5

Based on your readings so far, give an example of an innovation you have seen or heard about and use Roger’s theory of diffusion and adoption to explain the success or failure of the innovation. Later in the week pick another innovation and use a different theory of diffusion to explain its success or failure

Implementation of a credit recovery program at Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe using Roger’s Diffusion of Innovations framework  
1. The “relative advantage” of the implementation of a credit recovery program at LFO was an increased graduation rate which would allow the school to work towards its AYP goals. The school has made AYP for seven consecutive years, but with the increasing levels of the yearly criteria, something needed to be done to improve the number of students receiving diplomas. From an economic standpoint, if students accelerated their learning and progress, they could conceivably receive more than one unit per semester if they had multiple classes in which they needed to recover credit. This acceleration would reduce the number of actual teaching slots that would be needed if students were placed in traditional classrooms for repetition of course material. The initial costs were substantial as far as hardware and software were concerned. In addition, the level of students’ discomfort would be decreased because they could recover credits in reduced time. A successful implementation would definitely bring prestige to the school system, from a technological perspective as well as continuing to meet AYP, which makes for great public relations. The credit recovery program would allow students to reduce their “seat time” as they only focused on units or standards which they failed to meet in the regular classroom setting before receiving credit.  
2. The system invested in new computers which are “compatible” with the software components of the program. They located rooms in each of the three high schools, and trained personnel responsible for providing the program to students.  
3. Complexity is not a problem for either students or facilitators.  
4. Since this is the first year of implementation of the program, many of the key players are involved in the evaluation process and looking for opportunities to “tweak” the program’s implementation.