Philosophy of Evaluation Statement
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The integration of technology into our classrooms has become an essential part of life for students and educators in the 21st Century. While the purpose of education is to promote learning; it has also never been more resourceful, ingenious, creative, and just more entertaining with the use of the latest educational teaching tools available. This evaluation plan begins by looking at the changing face of education utilizing the Personal Learning Environment (PLE) and goes on to consider the different ways in which the HTM (Hospitality, Tourism and Marketing) Small Learning Community at Douglass plans to utilize this technology for learning in an academic program. Personal Learning Environment (PLE) is a trend to watch as it seeks to provide the latest technology and learning tools to support student learning while students organize his/her own learning. This selected evaluation explores some of the ideas behind the Personal Learning Environment and considers why PLEs have been selected as a trend to watch.

To What End?

Douglass High School is made up of 4 Small Learning Communities. HTM is a Small Learning Community representing the Hotel/Tourism and Marketing track for approximately 300 students. Through a grant, the HTM community is in the process of creating several phases of Virtual and Personal learning Environments (VLE & PLE) utilizing Hotel/Restaurant/Marketing Industry software and productivity tools/technology to create an HTM career lab for these students. According to the 2011 Horizon Report, Personal Learning Environments (PLEs) are described as systems for enabling self-directed and group-based learning, designed with great capacity for flexibility and customization. The same business software has been used at Georgia State University and local based hotels and restaurants in the Atlanta area.
By What Means and to What Degree?

Initially, I would like to apply the elements I have learned in research class to my evaluation. I plan to closely examine how the program can influence and enhance the student interest in the Hotel/Tourism/Marketing industry. Data collection plans include surveys for the HTM teachers about noticeable improved interest in their curriculum along with their Qualitative Questioning interviews for their input and thoughts. Statistical data from the Georgia State University implementation into their Hotel and Marketing courses and local industry will also be utilized for this evaluation. As a result, I will create opportunities to improve the teaching and learning process. Based on the research of Johnson and Christensen (p. 51), "We view the use of multiple perspectives, theories and research methods as a strength in educational research. In fact, we view the quantitative and qualitative as complimentary to each other; it is wise to collect multiple sets of data using different research methods and approaches in such a way that the resulting mixture or combination has complementary strengths and non overlapping weaknesses."

Why?

I intend to evaluate how the HTM Career Laboratory utilizing the PLE approach, can be beneficial in preparing our students in the hotel/business industry as implemented in the 2011 Horizon Report. I am curious to see how these Personal Environments can change the way students learn and interact with industry software and technology while collaborating with my stakeholders to develop !