

MEMBER profiles

Kevin Honeycutt

An Ed Tech Artist for Change

As the technology integration specialist of Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESS-DACK), Kevin Honeycutt wears many hats. He works in the areas of online safety, charter schools, schools of the future, Web 2.0 tools, and project- and brain-based instruction.

Honeycutt began harnessing technology while teaching art and theatre. “I decided to do a movie instead of a play, because I’d been struggling to get enough kids to audition. The turnout for movie auditions was overwhelming. We edited in iMovie and the kids created the soundtrack in Acid Pro. Using digital tools, the kids became educational Spielbergs. The excitement launched a student film program



and put our little town on the map.”

His passion for technology remains indelible. In his online safety presentations, he suggests parents and teachers join kids on digital playgrounds. “If they use chat, we should. If they love Second Life, we should dive in. Those who don’t join in abdicate their online mentoring role. To do less than move boldly into these landscapes is to risk becoming irrelevant to our learners. And once adults use these tools, they love them as much as the kids!”

Recently, Kevin has immersed himself in blogging and podcasting. “I support blogging and the mindshare of the edublogger community. I was

so happy to see that ISTE included this community at NECC. They are great leaders and thinkers and I was lucky to get to hang with them in the Blogger’s Café.”

Honeycutt’s wish for education is getting rid of isolation using available technologies. “Isolation makes it difficult for schools to keep up with the rate of change in the society we are preparing kids to join. New technologies can remove the barriers if we can remove the barriers in our imaginations.”

Above all, Honeycutt believes that technology can change kids’ lives. “I was raised in the trailer park and all I ever wanted was a fighting chance. With technology, I think any kid can change her world, if we only give her the tools and challenge her to do it.”

Special Interest Group

Teaching Teachers to Create “Sticky” Learning

Teresa S. Foulger is an assistant professor in the College of Teacher Education and Leadership at Arizona State University. She is also the new Communications Officer for ISTE’s Special Interest Group for Teacher Education.

“I was introduced to ISTE when I worked as a grant coordinator with five districts and many technology coaches to support,” Foulger says. “This was a very challenging job for me, and ISTE provided the foundation for my work, including the NETS for Students as a primary focus for promoting a new vision for including technology in the classrooms. Of course, the NETS for Teachers was invaluable.”



<http://www.iste.org/sigte>

Foulger’s current research agenda focuses on technology supports to teaching and learning. “I’m especially interested in collaborative environments—both online and face-to-face. I teach using hybrid or blended techniques because I’m a believer in the synergy that can be created by the intentional combination of face-to-face with online work. I mostly promote asynchronous tools. In our college we’re working hard to make sure that hybrid methods use technology in ways that provide us with interactions that couldn’t be available

otherwise. We shouldn’t use technology unless it enhances what we do.”

According to Foulger, the biggest challenge for teacher educators promoting technology integration is the backlash K–12 teachers perceive because of the emphasis on teaching to the standards. “Technology integration normally occurs in more interactive, project-based environments,” she explains. “Teachers who see the standards push as a move to be more directed have a hard time seeing the benefits of technology. How do we get teachers to trust that a well-created process that is student-centered can create some magical learning, the kind of learning that is ‘sticky’ and won’t need to be recalled right before the standardized test is administered?”