

Keynote Address

Dr. Chris Dede

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Setting the Context:

On October 23, 2013, Dr. Chris Dede, provided an overview of international trends at the second annual 21st Century Teaching and Learning Round Table in Toronto, Ontario. During his keynote, "Transforming Education for the 21st Century", he described the need for enabling 'life-wide' learning and preparing our students to succeed in a world with an array of social media, variety of mobile devices and immersive technologies. The following are highlights from his address.

Key messages from Chris Dede

Re-inventing Learning Communities

Chris Dede discusses the importance of learning communities, both face-to-face and virtual. Learning communities provide the chance to unlearn intellectually, emotionally and socially all the baggage of the 20th century, so that we can invent the 21st century.

- How might the use of blended learning provide opportunities to re-invent and re-imagine learning communities in the 21st century classroom?

Life-wide learning

"Twenty-first century learning needs to be life-wide, personalized and diagnostic ... There is a lot of research that indicates that ten years after you graduate, how well you're doing in life depends more on your intrapersonal and interpersonal skills than on your cognitive skills."

Dr. Chris Dede, in his Comparing Frameworks for 21st Century Skills, states: "The 21st century is quite different from the 20th in regard to the skills people now need for work, citizenship, and self-actualization. Proficiency in the 21st century differs primarily due to the emergence of very sophisticated information and communication technologies " (2010, p. 51)*. We are preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist.

- What are some of the skills/competencies students will need to be successful in the 21st Century workplace? How can educators help students develop these skills?

The role of the educator

"We have to use the rest of the world to help us help them learn and to personalize learning [for example, through the use of] virtual worlds to try to create the kind of rich environment in which it is possible to assess sophisticated intellectual, personal and social skills."

- How might educators balance what is happening inside and outside of the classroom environment to personalize student learning?

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Social media and new literacies

"Social media ...are, in fact, powerful mechanisms for sharing, for thinking together, and for co-creating." Dede discusses trans-media navigation, and conveys the skills students use as they navigate multiple sources of digital and social media, just as adults do.

- How might social media be used to support and engage students in their learning?

Technology as a catalyst

"In 21st century learning ... when you're in the world, you're going to have a device with you that knows who you are, and how you like to learn, where you are and what around you has been augmented for learning and who you like to learn with and how to reach them. That's a very intriguing vision."

- In what ways can technology be used to support greater communication and collaboration in classrooms, schools, around the world?

"The technology doesn't do anything unless it's a catalyst for deeper content, for more active forms of learning, for more authentic forms of embedded assessment, for links between school and life."



In your role, what are your next steps as you journey toward this model of 21st century learning?

SELECTED REFERENCES

Bellanca, J. & Brandt, R. (Eds.). (2010). *21st Century Skills: Rethinking How Students Learn* (1st Ed.). Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press.

- See Chapter 3* (pp.51-75), *Comparing Frameworks for 21st Century Skills* written by Dr. Chris Dede.

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