CEFPI
2012 World Congress on Educational Environments

Environments for Blended Learning
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Introduction

- Education is changing
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- Where is it going?
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Learning Objectives

- Education is changing

- Learn about the growth of online learning
- Learn about the problems with online learning
- Learn about Blended Learning
- Work to develop Blended Learning Environments
- Conclude what the characteristics of Blended Learning Environments might be
The Rise of Online Learning

- Why Learn Online?
  - Can customize content
  - Can customize pace
  - Can choose teachers
  - Can choose how information is presented
  - Its cheaper
Disrupting Class

2008 book by Christensen, Johnson and Horn

- Disruptive Innovation Theory predicts:
  - Existing educational system will meet fewer needs
  - Students and parents will look for alternatives
  - Online learning fills a void
  - Online learning will grow exponentially

- By 2019 half of all high school classes will be online
Advantages of Online Learning

- You can learn *when* you want
- You can learn *what* you want
- You can learn *where* you want
- You can learn from teachers you respond to

*For the first time student will have the ability to customize their learning*
Key K-12 Online Learning Stats

40 states have state virtual schools or state-led initiatives.

30 states, as well as Washington, DC, have statewide full-time online schools.

There were an estimated 1,816,400 enrollments in distance-education courses in K-12 school districts in 2009 – 2010, almost all of which were online courses. 74% of these enrollments were in high schools.

This estimate does not include students enrolled in most full-time online schools which were approximately 200,000 students in 2009-2010 and 250,000 students in 2010 – 2011.

These figures represent phenomenal growth as a decade ago, it was estimated there were 40,000-50,000 enrollments in K-12 online education.
Criticisms of Online Learning

What are some problems with Online Learning that you can think of?
Criticisms of Online Learning

- Does not foster development of social skills
- Promotes isolation and lack of peer connections
- It only works for motivated students
- There is no accountability
- Content is either unreliable or expensive
- It's not as effective as a good teacher
- Industry is poorly regulated
Criticisms of Online Learning

- Dropout rates are high - Estimates vary from 20 – 80% in some programs
- Teachers don’t have the time to produce online content
- It makes the teacher less important
- Kids don’t want to watch boring videos at home
- Many kids don’t have at home internet access
Blended Learning

- Blended Learning addresses the criticisms of online learning
  - Teacher acts as a motivator
  - Allows human contact and development of social skills
  - Fosters connection to peers
  - Enables customized instruction
  - Allows teachers to focus on breadth and depth instead of rote instruction
Blended Learning Environments

Why do we need special environments?

*Just as classroom were designed for lecture, we need to devise the appropriate spaces that facilitate blended learning*
Blended Learning - What is it?

Source: Kahn Academy  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OtSs2xEpzY
Blended Learning - What is it?

Source: Education Elements  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xMqJmMcME0
The Blended Learning Continuum

Rotation Model | Flex Model | Self Blend Model | Enriched Virtual Model

From Innosight Institute
The Blended Learning Continuum

Rotation Model
A program in which within a given course or subject students rotate on a fixed schedule or at the teacher’s discretion between learning modalities, at least one of which is online learning.

Flex Model
A program in which content and instruction are delivered primarily by the Internet, students move on an individually customized, fluid schedule among learning modalities and the teacher of record is on-site.

Self Blend Model
A scenario in which students choose to take one or more courses entirely online to supplement their traditional courses and the teacher of record is the online teacher.

Enriched Virtual Model
A whole school experience in which within each course students divide their time between attending a brick and mortar campus and learning remotely using online delivery of content and instruction.
The Blended Learning Continuum

Model 1: Fully online curriculum with options for face-to-face instruction
Model 2: Mostly or fully online curriculum with some time required in either the classroom or computer lab
Model 3: Mostly or fully online curriculum with students meeting daily in the classroom or computer lab
Model 4: Classroom instruction with substantial required online components that extend beyond the classroom and/or the school day
Model 5: Classroom instruction that includes online resources, with limited or no requirements for students to be online

Source: Eduviews, K-12 Leadership Series
The Blended Learning Continuum

Approach 1
At a regular school full time, but have at least one online class integrated with in-school class activities

Approach 2
Flipping the classroom with lectures away from school and homework in school

Approach 3
At school full time with all classes online with in-school enrichment

Approach 4
In school full or part time with online learning fully integrated with in school classes

Approach 5
Learn primarily online, come to school for labs, group work and testing
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 1

At a regular school full time, but have at least one online class integrated with in-school class activities
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 1 – KIPP Empower Academy

Source: Kipp Empower Academy  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5fFr3E9Js
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 2

Flipping the classroom with lectures away from school and homework in school
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 2 – The Kahn Academy
At school full time with all classes online with in-school enrichment
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 3 – The San Francisco Flex Academy

Source: San Francisco Flex Academy   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtDKuj863a4
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 3 – Carpe Diem

Source: Carpe Diem Schools   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s_O65rWV10
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 4

In school full or part time with online learning fully integrated with in school classes
Blended Learning Environments

Approach 3 – USC Hybrid High

Source: USC Hybrid High  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUVY3wcy0HM
Blended Learning Environments

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Blended Learning Environments

Approach 3 – i prep Academy
Blended Learning Environments

Developing the criteria for Blended Learning Environments

1. Break into groups
2. Appoint a recorder/reporter
3. List criteria for a Blended Learning Environment
4. Rank the list from most to least important
5. Share your criteria with the whole group
Blended Learning Environments

Developing examples of Blended Learning Environments

1. In your groups draw a plan or sketch a blended learning environment that meets as many of your prioritized criteria as possible
2. Label features so we can tell which criteria they satisfy
3. Report to the whole group
Blended Learning Environments

Characteristics of Blended Learning Environments

1. Central spaces, surrounded by support spaces
2. Ubiquitous computer access
3. Students and teachers looking at computers together
4. Individual student stations
5. Spaces for direct instruction
6. A variety of breakout and small group spaces
7. A variety of furniture options
8. Flexible and adaptable spaces
9. Space for social interaction
10. Comfort is important