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Background Information:

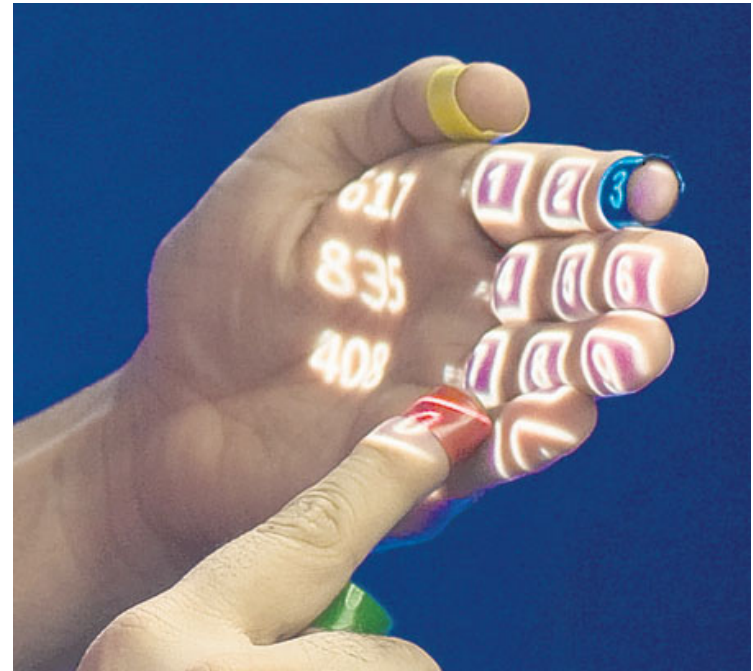
- Currently a professor of Education at New Mexico State University
- Studies democratic learning communities in technology-rich classrooms
- Taught for several years in both elementary and secondary schools

Today's Learning Objectives:

- Peers will identify the meaning and nature of technology-rich environments (TRE)
- Peers will identify the meaning and nature of democratic learning communities (DLC)
- Peers will choose two of the four critical aspects of democratic learning communities in technology-rich environments and explain them

Technology-Rich Environments:

- Environments that are well equipped with digital technology
 - Schools, Libraries, Classrooms, Learning Centers
- Provide many benefits to students
 - Facilitating communication
 - Accessing information
- Examples
 - Social networks, cellphones, computers, blogs, Smart Board technology



Democratic Learning Communities:

- Groups of people who work together to promote meaningful learning
 - Group examples—students, families, educators
- Called 'democratic' because they depict freedom of choice and shared responsibility
- They also provide collaborative opportunities for students to become involved in projects they find interesting



Ways to develop a quality DLC:

- By considering the following questions:
 1. How do teachers accomplish their multiple roles?
 2. How do teachers provide a quality learning environment that emphasizes the use of digital tools?
 3. How do teachers establish a learning-centered approach?
 4. How do teachers ensure that participants learn and improve social skills?

Group Activity:

- Number students off by 4's
- Each group will be assigned a question from the previous slide to discuss with members
- The groups will work together to come up with a solid answer to their question
- Groups will share their answers with the rest of the class
- After each group shares, they will discover how VanWie would approach the same question



Question #1: pages 268-269

- How do teachers accomplish their multiple roles?
 - Teachers explain what they need to accomplish to parents, students, other teachers, and the public
 - While teaching, they display empathy, curiosity, a willingness to take reasonable risks, and a commitment to make learning more effective and engaging

Question #2: pages 269-273

- How do teachers provide a quality learning environment that emphasizes the use of digital tools?
 - A flexible, classroom environment is essential
 - Teachers could have areas for:
 - Small group computer stations
 - Stands for laptops
 - Mobile computer carts
 - Hand-held devices (MP3 players, digital voice recorders, cellphones)
 - Software that is compatible with school's network

Question #3: pages 273-275

- How do teachers establish a learning-centered approach?
 - They place primary focus on using technology for meaningful learning—including activities that are active, collaborative, authentic, and constructive
 - They emphasize a democratic core curriculum that includes content and processes that bring into play students' beliefs, learning assets, interests, needs, and achievements

Question #4: pages 275-278

- How do teachers ensure that participants learn and improve their social skills?
 - By encouraging students to monitor their own actions and thoughts, which helps them develop self-management
 - By helping students set goals and monitor their own progress
 - Assisting students in collaborating in goal setting, decision making, and providing support for each other

Why Implement Technology into the Classroom??



References:

- Charles, C.M. (2011) *Building classroom discipline*. 10th ed. Boston: Pearson Education
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcVYM7y_1a4&feature=related