

Podcasting in Education

El Paso-Texas Regional Collaboratives Partnership



PROJECT SPONSOR: EL PASO CORPORATION

A TRC Statewide Corporate Partner



Project Summary

The Podcasting in Education project is a pilot to determine the effectiveness of podcasting as a means of enhancing the professional development initiatives for the Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Teaching. The study is funded by the El Paso Corporation, a TRC statewide corporate partner, and supported by the Region 19 Collaborative in El Paso. The study involves the state TRC office, staff at the Region 19 ESC, and twelve middle school science educators.

Project Goals

- Determine if podcasting can be an effective tool for supporting TRC science and mathematics education professional development programs.
- Define online support tools that will insure participants are successful in accessing podcasts.
- Identify content formats which are most beneficial for classroom teachers.
- Explore the tools and processes which will make it practical for authoring of podcast content by TRC staff and classroom teachers.
- Make informed decisions regarding the expansion of this online resource statewide.

Chronology of Project Activities and Results

Initial planning meeting: May 11, 2006 at Region 19 ESC

- Determined objectives, participants, and timeline

First hands-on training session for participants: June 28 - 29, 2006 at Region 19 ESC

- Project defined for participants
- Training in the use of iTunes to manage podcast content
- Distribution of one video iPod for each participant and hands on training for setup

Second hands-on training session for participants: October 31, 2006 at Region 19 ESC

- Participants shared technical presentations
- Participants received extensive materials to support their mentoring other educators in the use of podcasting in education. (PowerPoint slide show, handouts, online resources, and a presentation outline)
- Each teacher authored a podcast (all participants received audio capture software and a USB headset for recording high quality audio).

Online Project Collaboration

- Project Blog established
- Email List Serve
- Announcement and content podcasts
<http://thetrc.org/podcasts/>
- Online project web resource
http://thetrc.org/podcast_ed/

Next Steps

- Increase the number of TRC generated podcasts
- Complete online support resources
- Survey participants
- Hold an executive briefing for El Paso Corporation, spring 2007

