

Conference Highlights
2009 VSS Annual Spring Conference - *Innovations in Online Learning*

Virtual School Society Annual Spring Conference - April 22 & 23, 2009

Location: Coast Plaza Hotel – 1763 Comox Street, Vancouver

Media are invited to attend sessions during the conference. To arrange for a pass to a session or for more information, please contact Simone Abt at 604 738 3870 or simone@elettra.ca

A full list of sessions can be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/dxn4y8>.

Wednesday, April 22

Opening Keynote Speaker - Michael Horn

Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Is Changing the Way the World Learns

9:00-10:30 am, Ballroom

Michael Horn will analyze the most important social sector of our time, education, through the lens of "disruptive innovation," a groundbreaking theory that describes how new products and technologies uproot existing systems and replace them with more accessible, less expensive, vastly improved systems. Horn will describe how using one such disruption - online learning - can help schools and educators move beyond the current monolithic school system toward customizable, student-centric learning.

The Networked Teacher - How Does the 21st Century Teacher Help the Networked Student Learn?

11:00-11:45 am, Comox Room

Utilizing Web 2.0 for Teaching and Learning Success

1:00-1:45 pm, Nelson Room

The Privacy Paradox – Privacy within the Virtual Learning Environment

2:15-3:00 pm, Cardero Room

Closing Keynote Speaker – Tod Maffin

Learning in a Digital Age: How Technology Changes the Way Students Learn

3:15-4:30 pm, Ballroom

Backed by the latest research and findings from a neurological study, Tod Maffin will demonstrate how the multimedia environment around our students and multitasking technologies like PDAs are destroying their ability to learn.

In this provocative keynote, Maffin outlines the urgent, large-scale changes he believes are needed in curriculum development and classroom policies if our students are ever to have a fighting chance against the very world we've created for them.

Thursday, April 23

Opening Keynote Speaker – Ellen Wagner

Rules for Engagement

8:45-10:00 am, Ballroom

Ellen Wagner will discuss living and learning in the 'age of engage.' The presentation will explore lessons learned from advertising, entertainment and psychology, and will reveal Wagner's eight rules for engaging learners.

Inspire Learning by Being Technologically Adventurous

10:30-11:15 am, Denman Room

VSS/LNBC Spotlight: Daily Physical Activity Tracker for Online Students

10:30-11:15 am, Comox Room

The Law Project – Using an Online Movie-Making System to Meet Curriculum Requirements

10:30-11:15 am, Cardero Room

Engaging Reluctant Learners With New Technology and Tracking Progress in a Blended Model

11:30-12:15 pm, Cardero Room

Engaging Students in an Online Environment (Blog And Pony Show)

1:15-2:00 pm, Pacific Room

How Can Digital Tools Support Struggling Learners

1:15-2:00 pm, Beach Room

Closing Keynote Speaker – Steve Dotto

Learning New Lessons: Tackling New Technologies

1:15-2:00 pm, Ballroom

Steve Dotto, tech guru and host of televised computer show Dotto Tech, will be speaking on innovation, on changes in the way students learn, and on changes in the way teachers need to teach. Steve will approach the challenges in faced in education by looking at new technologies and at how they change our social fabric and habits. He will also reveal the lessons that can be learned by exploring how change is affecting our business and social lives.

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