

Education Fast Forward – Debater Details – 7th April 2011 Debate Productivity in Learning

Richard De Lorenzo
Founder, Re-inventing Schools Coalition
www.reinventingschools.org

Based in the USA



Title of Presentation

Moving to a system in which time is the variable and learning is the constant is critical if students are to take true ownership of their own learning.

Synopsis

RISC is the first comprehensive school reform model set up as a performance-based system rather than a Carnegie unit or time-based system. The model represents a radical paradigm shift from the traditional educational approach to one in which time is the variable and learning is the constant, and students take true ownership of their learning.

RISC's mission is to partner with educational systems to create schools that engage students in 21st century skill, students work at their instructional level in a learner-centered environment and advancing only when they have demonstrated proficiency,

RISC creates educational systems that meet the needs of all children by facilitating educational systems to:

- Develop a shared vision based on the needs of all stakeholders
- Ensure shared leadership among administrators, teachers and students is developed and sustained
- Implement a relevant performance-based transparent system that accelerates learning
- Build a continuous improvement process that leads to excellence
- Use web-based, relational databases to analyze processes and results

Dr. Robert Marzano, a leading education expert, has recognized the RISC model as “the most comprehensive and well-articulated approach to a performance-based reform in the entire country”.

Biography

Richard DeLorenzo, an internationally known leader in education reform and organization restructuring, is best known for his uniquely comprehensive “grass roots” approach to reinvent our educational systems. Mr. DeLorenzo led the first K-12 district in America to go from a time-based system to a performance-based system where students must meet performance targets to graduate instead of earning credits. This has been successfully demonstrated within his Alaskan Chugach School District and 100 schools throughout Alaska. This historically challenged system made phenomenal strides and was one of the first ever education recipient of the prestigious National Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award in 2001 and the National Native American Exemplar Award. Mr. DeLorenzo is also founder of the Re-inventing Schools Coalition (RISC). This organization is currently working with stakeholders in over 250 educational systems to guide them in the areas of leadership; shared vision, standards-based systems and continuous improvement that will help transform their organization. Their mission involves producing innovative schools that offer every child the opportunity to fulfil his or her life dreams. Besides guiding districts in America, Mr. DeLorenzo has been invited to speak in 6 continents.

Jean Johnson,
Chief Executive, The Inclusion Trust
<http://www.notschool.net/>

Based in the UK



Title of Presentation

Schooling has reached the end of its "product life cycle" - models for learning should now better reflect the capabilities and needs of a technological society in a world of diminishing resources.

Synopsis

Education is widely considered to be a basic human right but schools, as we know them, are a luxury we cannot afford to maintain in existing economic cultural and social contexts. In marketing terms schools have reached the end of their product life-cycle and need to be revisioned to reflect the needs of a technological society dependent on rapidly depleting natural resources. Notschool offers a radical education solution to our most marginalized young people but as the numbers rejecting conventional school increases, the concept can potentially offer a working solution to radicalize education and increase the productivity of learning.

Biography

Jean has worked in the education field for twenty five years, beginning her career teaching in East London schools working with difficult and disaffected teenagers. She began working with new technologies in 1993 and was one of the first teachers to pilot the use of the Internet in schools. She was part of the early developer group of schools for Oracle's Think.com, contributing to the final design of the software. Since then she has been involved in a number of high profile online projects both in the UK and abroad; working with schools as far apart as Sweden, Finland, USA, India, Japan and New Zealand. Projects have included Web for Schools, The Virtual Classroom, Learning in the New Millennium and Schools Online. Her work within Europe was influential in developing a model for the use of the Internet in schools in the EU.

In 1998 she was presented with an award as Teacher of the Year. Since 2000 she has led Notschool.net research project working in the field of social inclusion for disadvantaged youth, focussing particularly in the creative and innovative use of multimedia to develop learning. Jean has published a number of reports and papers including extensive work on Internet based accreditation and content delivery models.

Jean is a frequent presenter at conferences across the world. In December she was privileged to speak at the education strand of the Public Services conference which was part of the 2007 Nobell celebrations.

Jean has contributed to a number of TV and radio programmes. She has been described as the 'pre-eminent expert internationally' in the use of ICT to engage disaffected and excluded students.

Jean is a member of the Harnessing Technology Children Schools and Families Board.

