



# Florida Digital Educator Program

*A statewide integration initiative*

Karen C. Seddon

## Special points of interest:

- What is the Technology & Learning Institute?
- Advice for Camps 2 & 3
- Hubs of Learning/Homerooms
- Collage of pictures
- The FDE website
- **Best Of eXample**

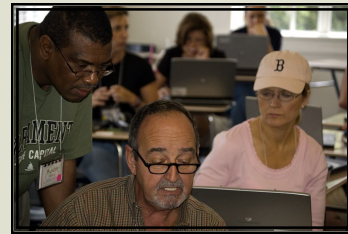
Fotini Guzman

## What is the Teaching & Learning Institute?



As stated on the FDE website, *"The purpose of the Teaching & Learning Institute is to provide educators with the technology experiences and opportunities to participate in project-based learning and collaboration they would expect of their students in today's global community."* These institutes are being held all over the state of Florida and in many formats. Our institutes are "camp" style. The teachers in Polk and Osceola are going back to college and "camping" out in the dorm. Camp 1 was a huge success. 75 teachers embraced the beautiful Florida Southern campus for six days from June 4-9 for learning, dining and collaboration. All teachers were invited to eat in the

campus cafeteria for breakfast and lunch while the resident "campers" dined in the cafeteria for all three meals. The food was delicious and the time spent together was priceless. Dr. Shannon White, assistant director for FDEP, brought a staff of Master Digital Educators who introduced the teachers to a breath of technologies in Days 1 and 2. Day 3 was dedicated to a project-based learning experience for the teachers as they began to understand the intricacies of what our students experience when asked to do group projects. On Day 4, we viewed eighteen projects in under two and a half hours. It was the most efficient venue of project presentation ever! The Institute was infused with General Session topics that



included copyright issues, the role of teacher leader and what happens "Beyond

the Institute." The last two days of Camp 1 were dedicated to the sustainability of the program. Teachers learned a host of "coaching" protocols for use with their collaborating teacher at their campus. We are all excited with the possibilities of a contagious group of educators seeking to impact the next generation with 21st century tools.



John Lein, Master Digital Educator is helping Jaime Reynafarje to learn



Michael Sweeney kept the Florida Digital Educators well supplied with techie equipment.

## Advice for Camps 2 and 3

To live in the dorm or not to live in the dorm? This was the big question. Teachers from Osceola live far enough away that it only made sense to stay on campus, but teachers in Polk had a choice. Most of the teachers who stayed on campus agreed that staying in the dorms only enhanced the collaborative experience. The following are just a few of the comments made from the teachers at Camp 1:

- Be open to getting to know new people. Get out of your county and get to know people!
- Be prepared to be with people all 6 days. You will be full all 6 days from food.
- Participate, participate. Go to the Hubs of Learning. Stay in the dorm!
- Bring an ethernet cable. Bring a foam cushion for your bed. Make the most of meeting new people and networking.
- Save, save now, save often!

For more comments, check our new website at:

[www.imc.osceola.k12.fl/EETT](http://www.imc.osceola.k12.fl/EETT)



## Fotini Guzman, Pleasant Hill Elementary School, Osceola County

Fotini Guzman is a technology integration specialist for her school. She is able to encourage her teachers to use technology in their classrooms in many unique ways. She designed a system of earning "Panda Bucks" where teachers receive incentive dollars towards technology items such as presenters, projectors, software programs and much more by attending technology classes. She went to her SAC committee and demonstrated how important it is to give teachers training in the vast amount of emerging and present technologies that can, at times, seem overwhelming. They, in turn, agreed to fund her idea. Fotini has managed to remove the fear of technology while encouraging the teachers to try new ways to motivate their students. At Camp 1, Fotini did one of the "Hubs of Learning" in the evening on iMovie. She divided us into two groups, taught us the various roles of movie production, had us create two small movies and even showed us how to edit it! Fotini is a model of bringing out the creativity in both students and teachers.



## Technology & Learning Institutes

June 3-9  
July 15-21  
July 22-28

## Hubs of Learning and Homeroom

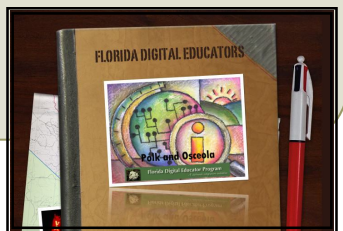
The **Hubs of Learning** at the Teaching & Learning Institute came in two forms: four evening informal trainings and five optional classes on Day 3 - project day. The four evening "Hubs" were held in the General Session room from 7-8:30pm and included: iPods for the classroom, iMovie, Podcasting with Garage Band, and Teacher Feature. These sessions were very well attended and great fun for all. The "Hubs" during Day 3 included sessions on Podcasting, wikis, Movie

Maker, Audacity, and blogs. The teachers really liked to have the option of attending or not and found that even if they sent just one member of their team, the tips were very helpful.

One of the benefits of camp was to have a homeroom group. Whenever you have such a large group, you don't want to spoil the camaraderie and time to collaborate, so smaller groupings in homeroom were designed to aide in the bonding process. Each day, the teachers reported

to their homeroom group where they were able to have two MDEs, Master Digital Educators as their "guide on the side." These MDEs will continue to be their mentors throughout the 2007-2008 school year and stay in communication through a number of collaborative tools such as email, Google docs, Gaggle.net, wikis and blogs.

By the end of the Institute, the teachers really began to see the big picture. It's not about all the tools of technology or learning every piece of software, it's about relationships. After all, the kids don't care about how much you know, until they know how much you care. It's exciting to see how many new friendships were made and the great partnerships that are developing.



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[www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT](http://www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT)