This Year’s Conference Theme: YOUcet  By: Dani Sloan

We all know that human factors play a critical role in technology adoption, without the right training and support the investment in hardware is likely to fail. This year at UCET we’d like to focus on the human side of tech. How technology can help us build relationships, engage our students in collaboration, and take student innovations and ideas to the next level.

Technology can do amazing things, but humans are more amazing! And not to brag, but the teachers in Utah are the MOST amazing. That’s why our theme for UCET is UCET, but not spelled like that... Like this: YOUcet! Get excited for this year’s conference where the focus is YOU.

#YOUcet  #UCET18

Announcing Our Conference Keynotes!  By: Dani Sloan

We are pleased to announce that this year’s keynotes will be Manoush Zomorodi from WNYC's podcast, Note to Self and John Couch, VP of Education for Apple.

Manoush Zomorodi is a podcast host, author, and relentless examiner of the modern human condition. As host of Note to Self, the podcast from WNYC Studios, she unpacks the forces shaping our accelerating world and guides listeners through its challenges.

Her book, Bored and Brilliant: How Spacing Out Can Unlock Your Most Productive and Creative Self (St. Martin's Press; Sept 2017), is based on her 2015 interactive project with tens of thousands of listeners. It empowers the reader to transform their digital anxiety into self-knowledge, autonomy, and action. Note to Self was named 2017’s Best Tech Podcast by the Academy of Podcasters. Manoush has won numerous awards for her work including four from the New York Press Club. In 2014, the Alliance for Women in Media named her Outstanding Host. In spare moments, Manoush tweets @manoushz and takes deep cleansing breaths. John

Couch is the Vice President of Education at Apple, Inc. Couch holds an A.B. in Computer Science from Berkeley, 1969. He earned his master's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 1970. John spent an additional two years in the Computer Science Ph.D. program. He left the program to work for Hewlett Packard as a software engineer. In 2010 John was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Philadelphia University for his innovative contributions to education.

At Hewlett Packard, John took on management roles at the same time teaching graduate courses at Cal State San Jose. He coauthored the textbook published by SRA (Science Research Associates) titled “Compiler Construction: Theory and Practice.” In 1978 John was recruited by Steve Jobs as Director of New Products for Apple Computer, Inc. In early 1979 John was promoted to Vice President of Software. Like Steve, John was influenced by their visit to Xerox PARC and managed the initial graphical user interface for the Lisa system. Since 2002 John has served Apple as Vice President of Education.

Check out an article here about Apple's vision for the future of the classroom.
**EdCamp Utah** - by Dani Sloan

UCET is excited to be involved with the 4th annual [Edcamp Utah](http://www.ucet.org/edcamputah). This FREE professional development event will be held on November 4th at the Sorenson Arts and Education Complex at the University of Utah. For more information or to register, visit [http://www.ucet.org/edcamputah/](http://www.ucet.org/edcamputah/)

What - EdCamp Utah  
When - Saturday, Nov. 4th, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Where - 1721 Campus Center Drive, Salt Lake City, UT, 84112

**Google Keep is a Keeper!** By: Pam Turley

Recent enhancements to Google Keep make it an exceptional productivity, curation and collaboration tool for students and teachers. Create notes with text, images, drawings, checkboxes, or save content directly from the web using the [Google Keep Chrome extension](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-keep-lsmdmhmkpnfdomoonikmpknieehcmij). In addition, add labels, color codes, reminders and easily share notes with others. Display the Keep Notepad within a sidebar in Google Docs or Slides and drag and drop content into your document. Slick!

[Google Keep Learning Center](https://support.google.com/keep/answer/3755988)

**UCET YouTube** By: Tricia Jackson

Have you checked out our YouTube Channel? It's loaded with goodies. We have past keynotes, funny intros, a few how-tos and short doses of inspiration. Each Thursday from August through December we'll be featuring a clip from our Ignite! Sessions on our blog. Missed a post? You can check it out at [http://www.ucet.org/tag/youtube/](http://www.ucet.org/tag/youtube/)

Want to subscribe to the channel? Head to [https://www.youtube.com/user/ucetmedia/featured](https://www.youtube.com/user/ucetmedia/featured)

Have a request or suggestion for a new video? Email [ucetinfo@ucet.org](mailto:ucetinfo@ucet.org) We hope you enjoy the videos and look forward to posting many more.
10 Reasons Schools are Making the Switch to Online Learning

By: Brayden Wardrop

What descriptors come to mind when you think of the words professional development? Does it change if we abbreviate it and call it PD? If you’re like most educators around the country then words like, “boring”, “obligatory”, “snooze-fest”, “lame”, and “irrelevant” might be the first to come to mind. You know it’s bad when #worstpd is a legit hashtag on Twitter.

Why is this? For most, P.D. has a tendency to be top-down in nature and usually lacks in its ability to differentiate to the needs of each teacher. A recent study concluded that a large percentage of teachers feel a lack of choice when it comes to their own professional development.

I’ve been there before...

As a former school administrator and technology integration specialist myself, I tend to agree with these teachers and I am constantly on the lookout for a more effective way to deliver and receive training. After all, I was tired of my staff drowsily stumbling into the cafeteria for a 6 AM P.D. session only to discuss the school’s new app downloading policies (thanks a lot, Candy Crush). On-line training is an incredibly simple and effective way to deliver and receive relevant training content regardless of existing skill sets or savviness. Allow me to elaborate:

1) Easy Delivery

Have you ever trained on any of the following topics?

- Safety
- Technology
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Digital Citizenship

The list goes on! With so many different training requirements and areas for professional growth, how can we possibly expect to deliver it all effectively with only a handful of dedicated staff development days? Housing PD online gives organization and structure to the mind-bending amount of training material you need to cover each year. It also makes distributing that content to groups or individuals who really need it a heck of a lot easier.

2) Analytics and Data

Ready for a few buzzwords? Here we go...

Remediation. Intervention. Feedback

These are all ideas we work on with our students and ones we ought to emphasize in teacher training as well. The ability to monitor teacher progress, field questions as they learn remotely, and refer learners to specific content related to the concepts they are working to master is significantly enhanced in an online format.

3) Individualized Content

Speaking of relevant content and buzzwords, “differentiation” is another proven factor that leads to successful learning. Capable school administrators work hard to understand the unique needs of their staff members and can prescribe targeted content to individuals striving to master a particular concept. Even though “cafeteria style” in-service days have their place, when it comes to individualized instruction, online learning gives the training facilitator a helpful leg-up.

4) Up-to-date material

Here’s a scenario for you: You host a back-to-school boot camp for your teachers a few weeks before they return to the classroom. After the spirited chit-chat of summer happenings has dwindled down, you delve into the first part of your training to talk about the updates Google, Apple, and Microsoft have made to all of the tools your staff uses while they were gone.
Navigation has changed here and there, some apps aren’t supported anymore, and you want to tell everyone about a neat little browser extension that saves you a bunch of time! The training concludes and school kicks off a few weeks later. Is everything you talked about in your summer session still relevant or have the tools been updated again? Is another (better) tool available now? Has a school policy changed? Taking all your training online allows for on-the-fly tweaks to ensure material is up to date and relevant to your staff.

5) Supplemental Content

While omnipresence may be your end goal, as a mere mortal here on earth you are likely lacking in your ability to be everywhere at once. Sure you might be able to nail down a time and date for an in-service day that works well for most of the staff but it’s hard to get everyone together face to face with any degree of consistency. Through online training resources, you can give your teachers valuable supplemental or follow-up content that they can view long after you’ve left the assembly hall. Good online training software will also allow you to assign content to both individuals and groups and allow you to build quizzes and track analytics for the content you send out.

6) Teacher Choice

Your school or district likely has specific initiatives or goals in place that are built around outcomes that the LEA wants to achieve. Ideally, a good professional development plan has been built to support these initiatives in order provide teachers with abundant opportunities for personal growth. But what about teacher choice in PD? As referenced in the survey above, “Teachers largely said principals and district leaders made the decisions regarding professional learning for teachers in the school.” Online training resources lend themselves very well to providing teachers choice in their learning. Companies like Kyte Learning, Coursera, or Lynda.com provide learners with an abundant library of courses that allow teachers to explore and learn about content that is interesting to them without getting in the way of achieving district goals.

7) Community collaboration

Collaboration and feedback are key in any learning environment. The craziness of everyday life as an educator, however, can hinder a teacher’s ability to spend meaningful time with their peers to discuss best practice or swap experiences. Online training platforms whose course libraries have been built by a community of other educators can open up a whole new realm of possibilities. Teachers can see what tools or methodologies are being used successfully in districts across the country. They can delve into project-based ideas for applying certain technology tools or find ideas for engaging a group of third-graders. The world wide web brings limitless ideas and opportunities for collaboration to the fingertips of anyone with a Wi-Fi enabled device.

8) Recognition

If meaningful professional development is our end goal as providers of training in our schools and districts, then one of our first questions ought to be, “what makes training meaningful?” For some, it is career advancement and pay-lane changes. For others, it is meeting requirements for relicensure or recertification. For many, simply having a “lifelong learner” mentality is motivation enough to kindle a desire for discovering new ways to engage students or to enhance our own effectiveness as teachers. Online training platforms provide concrete evidence of learning. Since the future doesn’t care how you become an expert, the ability to earn meaningful badges and certifications is a great way to communicate legitimate skills and make continued professional growth an extremely appealing
9) Scalability

How many teachers are you responsible for training?

Perhaps you’re one of many in a role as a teacher on special assignment (TOSA) with only a handful of educators you assist from time to time. Maybe you’re in charge of training for an entire school or district with thousands of educators to support. Either way, time and money are finite resources that can and should be preserved. Have you ever hired substitutes in order to bring full-time teachers in for a one-day training? Have you interrupted your own classroom time to help a fellow teacher switch the input on their projector? If so, you know there has to be a better way. An online training format offers greater flexibility and increased efficiency for getting meaningful training content in front of those who need it the most.

10) Anytime Access to PD

I sucked at math when I was in high school. And while it wasn’t quite high-sparrow, bell-ringing, Game of Thrones style shame I had to deal with, I still remember how I felt when I was given a tattered blue “Algebra 1/2” textbook and then watched as many of my friends received a gold-encrusted, still-in-the cellophane, “Algebra 1 textbook”. Not to worry though, a dedicated cry-pillow and a few years of therapy have cured me of most my algebra-induced emotional damage.

My point? Math scared me as an 8th grader and listening to a classroom lecture on the quadratic equation and then being expected to understand/apply it seemed like an impossibility to me. Online content helps alleviate this by letting teachers learn at their pace on their time.

Quick story for you: I recently witnessed a younger sibling of mine working on that very same equation on his school-issued iPad. He was watching a pre-recorded video lesson from his teacher who broke down each part of the problem, explained what was happening at each step, and offered helpful memorization and application tips along the way. I watched him rewind to the midpoint of the lecture several times until he felt like he understood what was being taught. Kablammy! My mind was blown! How much pressure do our staff members feel in a PD session when we’re talking about teaching concepts or technology tools that are totally foreign to them? How many of them are nervous to raise a hand or ask a question in a lecture setting out of fear of being viewed as technologically illiterate or out of touch? Online training provides every learner with equal access to supplementary training content that reinforces concepts being taught in-person.

Regardless of how we choose to deliver training, our goal should be to provide positive professional development experiences for every stakeholder. Training facilitators should feel empowered and effective in their ability to deliver timely training content. Learners should feel engaged and inspired as they acquire new skills and exercise choice in what they learn.

For some great reading about teacher professional development, check out the George Lucas Educational Foundation’s Teacher Development section.

https://www.edutopia.org/teacher-development
**Minecraft: Education Edition**

What's It Like?

Minecraft: Education Edition takes everything teachers love about Minecraft and adds new collaboration tools, classroom controls, and more. The Classroom mode gives teachers a map view of the world and the ability to interact with the students in one central location; if a student wanders away from the group, the teacher can easily bring the avatar (student) back to the working area. Teachers can create “chalkboards” of different sizes to display their learning objectives within the game, as well as non-playable characters (NPCs) to act as guides with links to more information. A camera tool has opened up new opportunities, as well. Students can now take pictures (and selfies) of their creations and generate a portfolio of their work to show the learning process. A newer feature, the Code Builder, lets students use programming to perform tasks in the game.

**Price:** Paid

**Grades:** K-12

**Rating:** 5/5

**Pros:** Highly engaging, adaptable to any subject area; great improvements to teacher controls.

**Cons:** Some students will be used to the freedom of the original Minecraft game and may balk at the more traditional, guided structure.

**Bottom line:** An excellent tool to engage students in learning, collaboration, and critical thinking is now more accessible than ever to teachers.

*Source: Common Sense Education*
Video Tutorial: Advanced Excel - Data Validation and Drop-Down Lists

Learn how to use Data Validation tools in Excel to improve the accuracy of the data in your spreadsheets. One of the Data Validation features you'll learn in this video is how to create Excel drop-down lists so that the person entering data can simply click a button and choose from a list of possible entries. Click the video at left to watch!

Using the Arts to Synthesize Student Understanding

Arts integration is more than an afterthought. You can use the arts to both meet your arts standards and deepen academic learning.

Source: Edutopia - click here to read the article.

Everything New in iOS 11

iOS 11 was just released for the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. Here's everything new!
The National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA and The GLOBE Program engage students in citizen science.

The National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA and The GLOBE Program provide robust, Green STEM learning experiences through student teams that perform environmental audits, develop and carry out action plans, and work with the community to solve local environmental issues.

Learn more about Eco-Schools USA and The GLOBE Program at nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/GLOBE.aspx.

A Partnership of Global Proportions!
Helping students develop local solutions to real world problems

Teacher Advisor with Watson 1.0 - Search for Free Math Lesson Plans!

The IBM International Foundation has developed and released a free platform, Teacher Advisor With Watson 1.0, which is designed to strengthen teachers' math instruction, helping students learn at higher levels.

Click the video above to watch an introduction to Teacher Advisor with Watson. Then read this article: 

By Teachers For Teachers: Teacher Advisor With Watson

For more information and to sign up go to the following link...

Teacher Advisor With Watson Information Site
Students Make Music! by Bryson Gray

What is it's purpose? Ujam is a beta website that allows students to record a composition of their own and turn it into a musical masterpiece! With different types of instruments available, students can transform any music they sing or record into any instrument! Your voice can be transformed into a guitar! A piano could be transformed into a trumpet. Students can create music they normally wouldn't be able to do with knowing how to play that instrument in MINUTES!

TEACHERS, GET ON BOARD

Teachers can now assign their students the task of creating music for their general music classes. Ujam is so simple that anyone can record a simple melody and develop it into a musical masterpiece. No download is necessary and no payment is needed for your students to become hands on learners in your music class as they make assignments based on what they are learning.

https://www.ujam.com/

Unique Writing Prompts by Nicole Fulgham

This website is great for English teachers to find unique prompts to use in the classroom to get students thinking in a creative way.

- PLATFORM: Any
- PRICE: Free
- RATING: Good
- USER: Teachers

The purpose of this website is to give teachers creative and unique writing prompts.

http://writingprompts.tumblr.com/

Imagine a world where sharks swim in the forest and somehow you find yourself lost in the woods.

Imagine it's a hundred years in the future and an archaeologist has somehow discovered the entire contents of your digital life. What does your "digital footprint" reveal about you? If you think of your online presence as a historical artifact, what will future historians know and think about you? And how do you think the contents of your digital life match up with what you would want to be known about you? After thinking about a future person discovering your entire digital life, are there any changes you would want to make to what you do and share online?
ShareMyLesson by Melissa Bell

www.sharemylesson.com

Sharemylesson.com is a free website that gives educators access to other lesson plans and class activities. It spans all grade levels from toddler to 12th grade and lesson plans are well organized by subject and grade level.

This website is an amazing source for teachers of any grade to be able to use when it comes to figuring out their lesson plans. Teachers can use this site to search/find lesson plans that another teacher has posted, share lesson plans of their own, etc. They can search for any lesson plan by grade, subject, topic, standards, etc. Teachers could also use this website to look for resources by grade, subject, and topic.

Reading Rockets By Ashley Erickson

Website: http://www.readingrockets.org/

The purpose for Reading Rockets is to help teachers find new and better ways to teach young children how to read and write. It is also a great resource for parents.

There are many resources on this website that teachers could use from videos on different ways to teach your students how to read, write, phonics and much more. The other thing it has is a section on how to help children who are struggling to read and it gives you ideas of how to help them the best way. It also gives you a section of new children's books you can buy to use within your class room. Teachers could use this to improve how they are teaching, or they are looking for new, fresh ideas about teaching reading.

Platform: Mac and PC
Price: Free, unless you choose to buy children’s books.
Rating: 1 2 3 4 5
User Range: 3-8 years old
We Teach FACs A website by FACs teachers, for FACs teachers

By: Alyssa Carpenter

- Platform: Mac, Windows, Java
- Price: Free
- Users: Educators of FACs classes

http://www.weteachfacs.com/home

We Teach Facs is a website for Family Consumer Science Education teachers that gives teachers the resources they need to help students t.h.r.i.v.e. Teamwork, Health, Relationships, Independence, Vocation and Employment.

This website is the jackpot for FACs teachers. It has resources for all 5 topic areas of FACs (child development, nutrition and cooking, sewing and textiles, Interior Design and Finance.) The website includes: Month-by-month lesson plans that are compliant with national requirements, PowerPoint presentations, FCCLA tips sample tests and more. There is even a tab for additional resources where there are links to a variety of other FAC's websites and educational networks.

For the history and more info on FAC's: There is also information on how to get involved in groups near you.

PlanBoard by Kelcie Morris

Plan board is an on line lesson plan tool. It helps to organize and create lesson plans with less hassle. Teachers can use it on their PC or laptop, or even on their smart phones. Planboard can also be used for teacher collaboration.

Teachers can also use PlanBoard to organize their school year schedule. It allows them to quickly and efficiently make lesson plans. It allows for teacher collaboration, and information and lesson plans can be used from one year to the next.

Planboard also provides space for teachers to include the different technology tools they want to use, and helps by making them easily accessible. This great tool can be used anywhere there is an internet connection, including your smartphone.

https://www.chalk.com/planboard/
**Peek-a-Zoo** by Tami Raschke


Peek-A-Zoo is a great tool for children to learn skills they will need for the rest of their lives. Children learn many things from this app including: Social cues, physical cues, animals, letters, emotions, sounds and actions. Because it is an app, it can be used on iphone or ipad, a great portability factor. Use it on an ipad in the classroom, or on a phone while waiting for a doctor’s appointment. Even if this app is used as a reward, the child is still learning while being rewarded. It can also be used to assess if a child can recognize social and physical cues.

Children are prompted with a question. Such as “Who is trying to hide?” Children will then answer by touching the animal that answers the question. Even if a child touches the wrong animal, that animal makes a sound and the child tries again. See a preview of the app by watching the video above.

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**KinderART** by Toryn Coombs

[https://kinderart.com/start-here/](https://kinderart.com/start-here/)

- **Platform**: Mac, Windows
- **Price**: Free
- **Users**: Teachers, parents
- **Rating**: 4/5

This site helps aid teachers and parents with art lesson plans that help students explore new and unique types of art. Teachers and artists can come learn and share different art projects that are suited for the classroom.

There are so many different resources on this site that can help enrich the classroom. As a general ed teacher sometimes it is hard to integrate the arts into the classroom when you do not have a ton of art experience. This site has easy step by step instructions to multiple fun and unique projects that could help kids express their creativity.

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Also, watch: Melted Crayon Suncatchers