



**College of Education**

**“Preparing Effective, Caring and Collaborative Educators for  
a Global Society”**

**Essay Contest Cover Sheet  
2010**

**Submission Deadline: October 30, 2010**

**Name:** Kenya Cutts  
**Major** Graduate Reading  
**Date** October 29, 2010

## ***“How Can the Use of Technology Enhance the Classroom/Work Environment”***

Everyday a teacher walks into a classroom. She turns on the lights to brighten up the dark room. She looks to her right and there is the computer station. She looks to her left and there is the InterWrite®Board. The teacher unlocks the closet doors and there is a laptop and projector. For some teachers, technology is waiting at every corner. From the beginning of the day to the end, it plays an integral part in implementing the daily requirements of teachers. Although the latest technological equipment may be present in today’s classroom, if a teacher cannot find the power switch she is in trouble. In order for a teacher to share all the wonderful advancements in technology with her students, she must first know how. The use of technology can enhance the professional development of teachers as well as the academic achievements of students.

Professional development is critical in providing what is needed to the teacher so that he can pass that knowledge to the students. Through professional development, “teachers need to understand how students learn technology, what kinds of experiences facilitate their learning, and what learning environments foster the exploration and openness to new ideas that must accompany learning” (Bybee & Loucks-Horsley 2000). Professional development is important in creating a comfort level for educators. “Fortunately, professional development can provide the necessary learning opportunities for teachers and other educators and lead them to support the ambitious learning goals we hold for all students learning technology” (Bybee & Loucks-Horsley 2000). Professional development can give teachers and educators the confidence they need to create exciting classrooms infused with technology.

The desire to provide instruction that promotes the academic achievement of students is the goal of educators. According to Cradler, McNabb, Freeman, and Burchett (2002) the Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology (CARET) states there are three primary curricular goals that influence the academic performance and student achievement through the use of technology.

1. "Achievement in content area learning"
2. "Higher-order thinking and problem solving skill development"
3. "Workforce preparation" (Cradler, et al. 2002)

Technology offers a wide variety of interesting tools that can be applied to classroom learning. Games, digital cameras, PowerPoint, videos, and WebQuests are just a few ways technology can be involved in daily lessons. "Research and evaluation shows that technology can enable the development of critical thinking skills when students use technology presentation and communication tools to present, publish, and share results of projects" (Cradler, et al. 2002).

Technology is everywhere. In order to keep up with the rest of the world educators have to be equipped with the skills to keep their students engaged and constantly evolving.

Technology is such an important component of life-long learning. It is here to stay and by using technology to enhance professional development and student achievement educators are setting a wonderful standard that can benefit and prepare students for success.

## References

Bybee, R., & Loucks-Horsley, S. (2000). Advancing technology education: The role of professional development. *The Technology Teacher*, 60(1), 31-34.

Cradler, J., McNabb, M., Freeman, M., & Burchett, R. (2002). How does technology influence student learning. *Learning & Leading with Technology*, 29(8), 46-56.