

CEP815 – Vision Statement
By Robb Arndt

My vision is to create a communicative community of educators who collaborate and support each other in the pursuit of the best practices for education in the 21st century and beyond. While this goal arises from a specific need to increase communication surrounding the use of technology in our community, it is not restricted to the technological field, or to the classroom. As an educational community, we must be able to identify principles and ideas that exist throughout our campus that we may then apply to our immediate surroundings, be that the classroom, dormitory, practice field, administrative office, etc.

To succeed in this vision will require leadership from each of those areas. This is not a mandate that we can achieve working as individuals. We must come together to identify those practices from the past that have relevance to our present and future and to identify those educational practices that we are missing, or can improve, to best equip our students for life beyond our buildings. For example, using the TPACK framework, we must identify the content that is essential for our students to understand and analyze the pedagogical means we have used to convey this content. As that same framework mandates, the next step is to ask ourselves where and how we can incorporate technological support to enhance and strengthen the previous areas. As this is a comprehensive task, there is no one answer, which is why it is imperative to include multiple perspectives and opinions in shaping this discussion. Each student is a product of their cumulative experience here so to know another department, office, or piece of school is to better understand our school as a whole and better understand the students that we produce.

Thus, the first step in this process is for us to embrace the learning opportunity we face. Through study of ourselves, our colleagues, and our peer (and rival) institutions, we can identify those aspects of school that we value most highly and most desire our students to understand or achieve. We *must* understand that as the world changes and develops, so must education, and a key component of this development will be the ability to collaborate and communicate using technology. Opportunities available to us include: the use of shared GoogleDocs to encourage student collaboration, a mandatory introductory programming course to expose students to opportunities available in computer science, exploring online learning options to enhance our curricular offerings, or introducing institutional makerspaces to encourage students (and faculty) to explore new areas of passion. Importantly, these opportunities are not restricted to our students – they are available as well to help us achieve the level of collaboration we will need to succeed as a faculty in our mission.

We must stay true to the mission of the school and the vision of our founding headmaster, Edward Pulling. In his memo, “Project for a New School”, Pulling notes that, “Inasmuch as education is to prepare for life, emphasis shall be placed on those subjects and activities...which either because of necessary fact content or of training value seem really to be vital” (1930 p. 2). Mr. Pulling soundly notes that our job is to educate the students to “prepare for life.” In order to do that, we must understand what skills and values that life will entail. The opportunities listed in the previous paragraph are but a sample those skills and values. As an institution, one of the most important skills for us to continue to move forward will be the ability to engage in professional

collaboration and communication to continue to offer our students opportunities to develop those 21st century skills.

So, in order to achieve our vision of creating a collaborative educational community that will best prepare our students to graduate and find a fulfilling, contributory role in the greater community, we must better understand ourselves and the larger community around us, both domestic and foreign. Doing so will enable us to shape our school to best serve these students and equip them for life after commencement. This is a goal that we can only accomplish together.

References

Pulling, Edward. *Project For A New School*. N.p.: n.p., 1930. Print.