SCSU’s 21st Century Classroom has Faculty “Rethinking” their Approach to Teaching and Learning

Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) recently transformed an older Computer Lab into a state-of-the-art learning center used in the School of Education. The space is designed to enhance School of Education students’ learning experience in the classroom.

The collaborative learning style in the room is supported by four pods, each containing a monitor. Using their mobile devices, students can collaborate in small groups within the pod or share content with other groups on the room’s large interactive display.

A variety of faculty agrees that the 21st Century Classroom enhances the learning potential across all disciplines and recognize that a new pedagogical approach is needed to optimize the learning experience.

*I have to rethink how to plan instruction and take advantage of the resources and technology in the classroom.*

SCSU Faculty

Cameras linked to a lab school in New Haven give School of Education students the opportunity to observe primary and secondary school students in a real classroom, setting the context for their later studies and professional career.

The 21st Century Classroom at Southern is also working with group of 10th graders from the New Haven School District. In concert with the federal Gear Up Program, the School of Education has interacted with these students since 7th grade. Those students that complete the program will receive money towards their college educations.

*The District is piloting their new Math program using SCSU’s 21st Century Classroom. Teachers within District schools can enhance their individual lessons, while getting support from instructors, tutors, and one another in real-time. For some of these students, it is the first time they have ever used an iPad or SMART Board. Other pilot programs are due to launch in Spring 2016.*

*I like that we are focusing on technology that will enhance instruction instead of just technology for technology’s sake.*

Adam Goldberg, SCSU Faculty