

2009

Contextual Teaching & Learning Resources



Bonnie Goonen & Susan Pittman-Shetler

Michigan Adult Education Professional
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The Internet is an incredible resource. From research to information to curriculums, the internet can provide a wealth of information for professionals as they work towards building a contextualized learning environment for adult learners. The following list provides an introduction to contextualized learning, along with research regarding skills needed for successful entry into the postsecondary system and the workforce.

All websites reviewed July 2009.

| Site | Overview | URL |
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| A Cross-Case Analysis of Career Pathway Programs National Research Center for Career and Technical Education University of Minnesota | The overarching research question for this study was: What programs, policies, and practices, particularly curricular, institutional and support strategies, are currently being implemented to support the transition of low-skilled adults through career pathways that align with postsecondary CTE? This study provides support for contextualized instruction within career pathway systems. | http://136.165.122.102/UserFiles/File/pubs/Career_Pathways.pdf |
| Career One-Stop U. S. Department of Labor | This site provides access to career exploration, employment trends, free occupational videos in both English and Spanish, as well as a wealth of teaching materials such as resume writing, job applications, etc. | http://www.careeronestop.org/ |
| Center for Occupation Research and Design | CORD is a national nonprofit organization providing innovative changes in education to prepare students for greater success in careers and higher education. CORD assists educators in secondary schools and colleges through new curricula, teaching strategies, professional development, and partnerships with community leaders, families, and employers. Materials on contextual education and adult career pathways are available. | http://www.cord.org/ |
| Exploring Contextual Teaching and Learning Washington State Consortium for Contextual | Although a K-12 program, this series explores new forms of hands-on teaching methods through the Washington State Consortium for Contextual Teaching and Learning - one of seven national projects comprised of 11 colleges and universities and 20 school districts | http://www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=2196&fID=1506 |

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| Teaching and Learning | across Washington state. The goal is to enable K-12 students to solve simulated or real-world problems by applying higher-level thinking skills emphasized by contextual teaching and learning. Free videos that review a variety of contextualized learning systems. | |
| George Lucas Educational Foundation (GLEF) | Although primarily focused on K-12, GLEF strongly supports contextualized instruction, project-based learning, integrated studies, and special reports on such things as “going green,” “jobs of tomorrow,” “collaboration,” etc. | http://www.edutopia.org/ |
| Giddens, Beth and Stasz, Cathy (1999) Context Matters: Teaching and Learning Skills for Work University of California, Berkeley | An introduction to contextualized learning and how to implement the concept into any type of classroom. | http://ncrve.berkeley.edu/CenterPoint/CP8/CP8-Contents.html |
| Imel, S. (2000) Contextual Learning in Adult Education | A short overview of integrating contextual learning into adult learning environments. | http://www.calpro-online.org/ERIC/docs/pab00021.pdf |
| Michigan Jobs and Career Portal | A Michigan resource for employers, teachers, students, and job seekers. The site provides information on how to Search for jobs, start a business, find financial aid for school and job training resources, learn about careers and occupations. | http://www.michigan.gov/careers |
| Mueller, Jonathan. Authentic Assessment Toolbox | The Authentic Assessment Toolbox is a free how-to text on creating authentic tasks, rubrics and standards for measuring and improving student learning. | http://jonathan.mueller.faculty.noctrl.edu/toolbox/tasks.htm |
| O*NET U. S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration | The O*NET system serves as the nation's primary source of occupational information, providing comprehensive information on key attributes and characteristics of workers and occupations. The O*NET database houses this data and O*NET OnLine provides easy access to that information. | http://online.onetcenter.org/ |

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| <p>Reach Higher, America: Overcoming Crisis in the U.S. Workforce Report of the National Commission on Adult Literacy</p> | <p>The National Commission on Adult Literacy provides a powerful report on the needs of the adult education system and recommendations for action regarding each of the identified issues.</p> | <p>http://www.nationalcommissiononadultliteracy.org//report.html</p> |
| <p>Rising to the Challenge: Are High School Graduates Prepared for College and Work? (February 2005) Washington, DC: Achieve, Inc.</p> | <p>A research study based on high school graduates, college instructors, and employers regarding educational skill gaps and what skills are necessary for success at the postsecondary level and in the workplace.</p> | <p>http://www.achieve.org/files/pollreport_0.pdf</p> |
| <p>Schell, J.W. (2001) An Emerging Framework for Contextual Teaching and Learning in Preservice Teacher Education CTL Project</p> | <p>A paper on implementing contextualized instruction in teacher education programs at the University of Georgia.</p> | <p>http://www.coe.uga.edu/ctl/Pages/theory.htm</p> |
| <p>Sticht, Thomas (1997) Functional Context Education: Making Learning Relevant</p> | <p>The "grandfather" of all research background resources on functional context education and contextualized learning can be found in Tom Sticht's downloadable training notebook</p> | <p>http://www.nald.ca/Fulltext/context/context.pdf</p> |
| <p>The American Diploma Project. (2004) Ready or Not: Creating a High School Diploma That Counts Washington, DC: Achieve, Inc.</p> | <p>Based on both statistical analysis of employment data and extensive research involving over 300 faculty members from two- and four-year postsecondary institutions, managers, and high school educators, the American Diploma Project (ADP) identified English and math benchmarks that high school graduates must master in order succeed in credit-bearing college courses and high-performance, high-growth jobs. The study provides skills that instructors can use to integrate into a contextualized learning environment.</p> | <p>http://www.achieve.org/node/552</p> |

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| <p>Project-Based Learning The Buck Institute for Education (BIE)</p> | <p>Problem solving through project based learning is an integral part of contextualizing instruction. PBL-Online is a multi-level resource for educators. The site provides, introduces, and explains Project Based Learning using both text and video. In addition, it guides users through the planning of a standards-focused project.</p> | <p>http://www.bie.org/index.php/site/PBL/pbl_online/</p> |
| <p>Tough Choice or Tough Times National Center on Education and the Economy; The New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce</p> | <p>An executive summary of the report on education and the economy by the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce and how to compete successfully in a global economy.</p> | <p>http://www.skillscommission.org/executive.htm</p> |
| <p>What is Contextualized Learning? Nebraska Adult Education System</p> | <p>A short overview of contextualized learning and practices.</p> | <p>http://literacy.kent.edu/~nebraska/curric/ttim1/art5.html</p> |
| <p>The Condition of Education U. S. Department of Education. IES National Center for Education Statistics</p> | <p>This website is an integrated collection of the indicators and analyses published in <i>The Condition of Education</i> 2000–2009, including reports on postsecondary, K-12, and adult learners functioning on assessments.</p> | <p>http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/</p> |