ePortfolio conference

Virginia Tech hosted the fall regional conference of AAEEL—the Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning, the professional association for the global eportfolio community and industry. The conference title was “Start with the Learner: a Student-Centered Conference.” Jennifer Sparrow (TLOS) was the keynote speaker, with her address, ‘Empowering Digital Fluency with the "e" in ePortfolio.’

The student panel offered an opportunity for conversations around eportfolio experiences, challenges, and successes. The conference activities also included a symposium of student portfolios for viewing and discussion. The Networking Café hosted conversations and collaborations among all attendees.

Student panel introduced by Marc Zaldivar, who, along with Teggin Summers, organized the conference.

Presenters came from the University of Cincinnati, Stetson University, University of Michigan, and others, in addition to closer institutions of Radford University, University of Virginia, and, of course, Virginia Tech, including student presenters. Virginia Tech and Clemson University have been alternating the hosting of the conference since 2010. The full schedule is available at https://aaeebl.sitemym.com/?page=2013_southeast.
Tech Teams

Tech Teams is a new engagement initiative that brings together small groups of people from across the university to rapidly evaluate emerging technologies that have potential for use in teaching and learning at Virginia Tech. The scope of a Tech Team can be very narrow—for example, vetting a specific software application—to fairly broad such as focusing on classroom flipping or examining a range of technologies classified under an umbrella like “student response systems.” In general, Tech Teams will be focused on emerging technologies or pedagogical concepts that use technology. Staff who are interested in exploring new areas, meeting new people from around the institution, or who enjoy research/testing/evaluation are encouraged to participate. If you are interested, have ideas for a Tech Team, or would like more information, please contact Claire Gilbert (gilbertc@vt.edu).

Identity management federation

“Electronic Identity: The Foundation for the Connected Age” was published in the Policy Matters section of the September/October Educause Review. Authors Ann West (Internet2), Mary Dunker (Virginia Tech), and Christopher W. Holmes (Baylor University) describe the benefits and concerns of a trusted identity network. See http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/electronic-identity-foundation-connected-age.

VASCAN

VASCAN is the Virginia Alliance for Secure Computing and Networking. The annual conference was held October 3-4, hosted by Old Dominion University. Speakers from Information Technology were Mary Dunker who described the InCommon Assurance Program, and the framework and standards surrounding the program. Her presentation offered information on how to achieve InCommon Assurance Certification. Randy Marchany addressed “The 20 Critical Controls,” quick wins that allow for rapid improvement in cybersecurity without major procedural or technical change. International cybersecurity experts developed the 20 Critical Controls to be the most effective and specific set of technical measures to counter the most common and damaging computer attacks. The controls address the root causes of these attacks. This presentation discussed how Virginia Tech is implementing the 20 Critical Controls as part of its overall security strategy.

The conference website is http://www.oecs.odu.edu/vascan/index.php.