

A PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE Ph.D. PROGRAM IN TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION FOR THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY-PROFICIENT EDUCATORS

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the Louisiana State University offers a Ph.D. program related to technology in some fields of study, but not in relation with the Foreign Languages.

The State's educational technology goal: "All educators and learners will have access to technologies that are effective in improving student achievement" suggests that implementation of a Ph.D. program in Technology Education for the Foreign Languages will be ideal to have it at the LSU.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Even though teaching is the writer's passion, she recognizes that technology is an ever growing entity and we need to adapt to it. So, as her desire to advance herself in the field of technology, she enrolled at the Pre-Service Teachers Networking Environments Through Technology Learning Institute last summer.

This semester, she has adopted technology into her work to enrich the learning environment and to save time. Her PowerPoint presentations and course-management software are helping her to teach better. The students like this technology and they are learning more. E-mail and online course management systems give her ways to save time too. Also she has incorporated the use of technology to improve students' understanding of culture. For undergraduates she has used a CD-ROM depicting her own ethnographic research of the culture of Latin America. It brings the culture alive for the students --gets them close to its daily life. They can hear the music, see the landscape, the gestures and the faces of the people. Multimedia technologies give the students a far richer experience than one they can get from a written text.

Virtually every chapter of her course is employing innovative use of technology to enhance the learning experience of the students. The writer is very happy about the development of the classes and the students like the use of technology in the classroom.

As the writer wanted to get more training in developing technological competence and confidence in integrating relevant technology-rich curricular plans for her personal professional use, she is participating in a variety of technology-related workshops offered to educators at LSU. But she has realized that these presentations in technology are not enough to provide the ideal training in developing technological competence and confidence in integrating technology into the Foreign Language classes and lessons.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the foregoing, the writer recommends that the Louisiana State University will offer the Ph.D. program in Technology Education for the Foreign Languages so the students, faculty and university will benefit; and probably the LSU will be one of the first universities to offer this program.

I would gladly become the test person for this program. It would seem well worth the minimal risk to give this proposal an opportunity to prove its merit.