



WFS Learning Section
Bulletin
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FUTUREtakes publishes the *WFS Learning Section Bulletin* by special arrangement with the World Future Society (WFS) Learning Section Steering Team. Issues of the *WFS Learning Section Bulletin* typically include foresight education exercises, an educator spotlight column, and synopses of the annual WFS Education Summit.

Education Summit: Learning for Tomorrow

**July 17, 2009
9:00am-5:00pm
Chicago**

*contributed by Susan Echard
Vice President, Membership and Conference Operations
World Future Society*

The Education Summit, scheduled in conjunction with “World Future 2009: Innovation and Creativity in a Complex World,” will explore the cutting edge of education. A full-day program, the Summit will look at what tomorrow holds for education, including new technologies, new techniques and approaches to teaching futures, and visions for the coming decades.

8:30–9:00 a.m. Light Continental Breakfast

9:00–9:10 a.m. Overview of Day

Jay Gary (*moderator*), director and professor, School of Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship, Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia

9:10–9:55 a.m. *How Web 2.0, Collaboration, and Public Information is Changing Higher Education*

Michael Rihani, president and CEO, Koofers.com, Reston, Virginia

This session will explain how Web 2.0 services are truly pushing the academic envelope and in turn creating innovative way for higher education to accept and adopt these technologies into the classroom.

9:55–10:40 a.m. *The Future of Mobile Devices for Learning*

Gloria Steele, education consultant, Technology & Innovation in Education, Rapid City, South Dakota

This presentation focuses on ways to use mobile computing devices, including notebook computers and cell phones, to engage students. The use of mobile devices as tools for data collection, research, organization, audio and video production, collaboration, and the improvement of writing skills will be explored, and the development and management of classroom projects using these devices will be discussed. The findings from a statewide one-to-one high-school laptop initiative will be shared, highlighting the nature of critical features, including the technology used, the setting, the implementation plan, and impact on student goals and objectives. Together we will forecast the future role of these tools and features for enhancing teaching and learning.

10:40–10:55 a.m. Break

10:55 a.m.–12:00 noon Creating Academic Learning Futures in the UK

Sandra Romenska, research associate for the project, Creating Academic Learning Futures, Leicester, United Kingdom

Gilly Salmon, professor of E-Learning and Learning Technologies, University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom

According to the OECD, higher education systems are being challenged by powerful forces from three interrelated fields: demography, funding availability, and technological innovation. Higher education institutions in the UK in particular are faced with two trends: a decline in the number of traditional learners, due to demographic changes and the introduction of tuition fees, and a rise in the number of nontraditional learners, driven by expansion of the knowledge economy, innovation in technology, and increased mobility. This discussion will focus on creating and exploring alternative futures for higher education through scenarios from emerging student voices. Taking the perspective of higher education and new technologies as complex systems, it will highlight possibilities for modeling futures using participatory and interactive methods.

12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00–1:45 p.m. *Fostering 21st-Century Skills through Problem Solving International*

(Includes students from the Chicago area to discuss their projects)

Marianne Solomon, executive director, Future Problem Solving Program International, Inc., Melbourne, Florida

Vicki Stein, program director, Future Problem Solving Program International, Inc, Melbourne, Florida

Learn about a program that utilizes creative problem solving, encourages students to research and analyze global issues of the present and the future, and provides the materials/tools for collaborative team work. The program also extends learning through the service learning component, Community Problem Solving, and the creative writing component, Scenario Writing, which is based 20–30 years into the future.

1:45–2:30 p.m. CoRT: Futurist Thinking Tools for Students

Lynda Curtin, president, de Bono for Schools, Glendale, California

The only reason schools exist is to cultivate students who can think broadly about any topic. The only reason people with an education get hired is because of their ability to think. Great thinkers can help create great futures. We are going to explore and experience key CoRT thinking tools that help strengthen creative performance. The trick is to learn how to take charge of your thinking energy and to direct it with a laser sharp focus after selecting which thinking tool you will use.

2:30–2:45 p.m. Break

2:45–3:45 p.m. Foresight Issues in Business and Society: Required Course at Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business

Tom Frecka, professor of accounting, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana

Jay McIntosh, adjunct professor, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana

The University of Notre Dame has decided to require a future studies course for all business students. Pilot versions of the course will have been taught to about 75 students before the requirement is instituted in 2009. About 500–600 students will take the required course each year in section sizes of about 25 students each. During the session, we will review course learning objectives, share the course syllabus and explain how the course is organized, discuss in-class activities and out-of-class assignments, and provide examples of research projects undertaken by students. It is expected that students will join in the presentation and share their experiences with the course.

3:45–4:30 p.m. 10 Trends Affecting the Future of Higher Education

Ralph Wolff, president and executive director, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Alameda, California

American higher education has frequently been ranked as the best in the world. Is it still? Every major country in the world now recognizes higher education as key to global

competitiveness and future prosperity. Yet major trends are affecting the quality and character of American higher education in significant ways. This session will review and analyze 10 major trends that already are influencing the future direction of higher education in the United States and beyond.

4:30–4:45 p.m. Summary of Day's Events

Jay Gary (*moderator*), director and professor, School of Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship, Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Registration fee USD125 members/USD150 nonmembers (includes light continental breakfast). Note: this is separate from WFS conference registration.

World Future 2009 is scheduled for July 17-19, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. For additional information about the conference and the pre- and post-conference activities, visit www.wfs.org.