

ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITIES - AN INITIATIVE FOR MODERN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Today we live in a bigger, faster, more knowledgeable world, where people have to collaborate with others in order to reach their best potential. Teachers are no exception. Today's teacher has to collaborate with others in order to provide the best education to his or her students. The best ways to do this is with access to web-based Learning Communities or Professional Learning community. Professional Learning Community (PLC) means a community of stakeholders that are all working together focused on the best interest of the students, where results are measured by an increase in student achievement. These stakeholders are anyone with an interest in that particular school from within the school community—school leaders or administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and community members. Collaboration is a key factor in a PLC. Imagine everyone working together for the best interest of the students and focused on a culture of assessment-driven continuous improvement, and you have a PLC. The more extensively involved teachers were in professional activities, such as collaboration with others and involvement in online learning communities, the more likely they were to use computers in varying ways. That said, with access to current technology, teachers that are more active in their school environment are in a position to help other teachers become more accomplished in the area of using computer technology in their teaching (Becker, 2000). The opportunities are endless and the doors to 24/7 learning are opened, suiting both the learner and in time. This paper focuses on the need and relevance of on-line learning communities in today's world and how this online learning would be a step towards revolutionizing the demands of modern education. If schools/ colleges realize the potential of just one or two of these aspects and fully embrace this change, it will be a revolutionary moment.

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