

Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning • Winter 2009 • Volume 18, Issue 3

CRL's online home gets a makeover

OUR MISSION: Our work centers on solving the problems that limit individuals' quality of life and their ability to learn and perform in school, work, home, or the community..

The Center for Research on Learning will ring in the new year by unveiling an assortment of online offerings that will help us better tell the story of our work and promote greater understanding of our accomplishments as a research center. Changes include an extensive revision of our web site and an exploration of social media.

In January, we'll reveal a new look and organizational structure for our web site, <http://kucrl.org>. The changes, which go beyond merely redecorating the site, will help us meet several important goals:

1. We have heard from site visitors that some of the most important information on the current site is hard to find. The new home page will make links more explicit and brief descriptions will help visitors find exactly what they need. We also are putting more emphasis on links to parts of the site that visitors ask about most frequently, such as our research and publication list.
2. We'll use the central section of the home page to call attention to recent news from the Center and profiles of CRL projects. A lot of great work takes place under the CRL umbrella. We are developing a series of profiles of projects across our six divisions to help us better tell our story as a thriving research center dedicated, as our mission says, to solving the problems that limit individuals' quality of life and their ability to learn and perform in school, work, home, or the community. We envision these as multimedia profiles, combining text, photos, audio podcasts, and video elements.
3. The Center has grown to include six divisions and institutes: ALTEC, the Division of Adult Studies, the eLearning Design Lab, the Kansas Coaching Project, the Institute for Research on Adolescent Learning, and



Prototype of our new web site design.

the Professional Development Research Institute. The new design will help convey the big picture of the work conducted by these divisions by providing direct links to each division web site and by featuring the project profiles described above.

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Our web renovation will be completed in phases. The first phase will be most noticeable to you and should be completed by the end of January. The look of the home page and many secondary pages (such as About and Staff Presentations) will take on the new design. By the end of summer, we will have standardized the look and navigation throughout the site.

Exploring social media

In conjunction with our web renovation, we're expanding our use of social media such as Twitter and YouTube to give you new ways to keep in touch with us and to give us new ways to reach out to you.

When we unveil the new site design, you'll be able to subscribe to CRL news announcements using

an RSS feed. If you use this option, news posted to the CRL home page will appear in the RSS reader of your choice.

Amber Nutt, in a Stratepedia blog post in 2008, introduced the concept of RSS:

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. Instead of searching in several different places for new information, the RSS reader does the searching for you and gathers the information in one place. By doing this, RSS feeds can help you save a ton of time. Oh yeah, and RSS feeds are also easy to use...if you can check your email, then you can use RSS.

For more on RSS, explore the great information available on the Stratepedia blog: <http://blog.stratepedia.org/category/information-literacy/using-rss/>.

CRL also has entered the Twitter universe. Follow @KUCRL for general news and announcements from the Center. Follow @StrateTweets for SIM-specific tweets. Especially as we get closer to the 2010 conference, @StrateTweets will be the account to follow for news and information.

Finally, we're excited to announce that the Center has its own brand-new YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/kucrl>. The 2008 and 2009 CRL awards videos are available now, and we have big plans for this space. Watch our YouTube offerings grow in the coming months and tell us what you would like to see there to support your SIM professional development work.

New videos online

In November, the Center sponsored two terrific back-to-back presentations. You can watch the videos of these presentations on our web site.

On Nov. 4, Harvard professor Ronald Ferguson spent a morning in discussion with CRL researchers, then that evening gave a guest lecture for the university community titled "Toward Excellence with Equity: How Parents and Educators Can Help Raise Achievement and Close Racial Gaps." You can view Dr. Ferguson's engaging talk on the CRL Learns web site: <http://crllearns.kucrl.org/2009/09/guest-lecture-ron-ferguson/>

The next day, two KU faculty members helped Center staff understand the purpose and use of item response theory as it relates to developing reliable tests. Bruce Frey and Billy Skorupski of the School of Education's Psychology and Research in Education

Department used real-world data to demonstrate IRT, which focuses on test questions and how people respond to these items. For your viewing pleasure, visit <http://crllearns.kucrl.org/category/capacity-building/>

The top link—*Capacity Building: William Skorupski and Bruce Frey*—will take you to the most recent presentation.

The IRT workshop was part of a continuing series of sessions, called CRL Learns Capacity Building, organized by CRL to boost staff research skills and knowledge. Video of earlier workshops are also available on the CRL Learns site, and we encourage you to take a look around.

While you're checking out videos on our web site, pop over to the KU-CRL Media Archives (<http://media.kucrl.org>) to watch Don Deshler's keynote address during the 2009 International SIM Conference.

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Potential Professional Developer Institutes: Apply now

Now is the time to be thinking about teachers, administrators, and university personnel you know who could become outstanding SIM Professional Developers. Several Institutes for Potential SIM Professional Developers are scheduled next summer. Encourage excellent candidates to apply now as space is limited in some sessions and others will be cancelled if we do not receive a sufficient number of applications.

Learning Strategies PPDIs

June 7-11, 2010

Cumming, GA. Sponsored by Forsyth County Public Schools. Contact: Jane Basler, jbasler@forsyth.k12.ga.us; 770-781-2299 x130110; FAX: 770-888-1193

June 21-25, 2010

Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Mona Tipton, mkatz@ku.edu; 785-864-0626

June 21-25, 2010

Burlington, VT. Contact: Winona Lowe, sim@madriver.com; 802-371-7171; 802-496-4817

June 21-25, 2010

Orlando, Fla. Contact: Mary Ann Ahearn, ahearnm@nefec.org, or Valerie Watson, watsonv@nefec.org

Content Enhancement PPDIs

June 14-18, 2010

Austin, Texas. Contact: Candace Bixler, candace.bixler@esc13.txed.net

June 21-25, 2010

Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Mona Tipton, mkatz@ku.edu; 785-864-0626

June 21-25, 2010

Orlando, Fla. Contact: Mary Ann Ahearn, ahearnm@nefec.org, or Valerie Watson, watsonv@nefec.org

For more information about the institutes, fees, or the application process, visit <http://www.kucrl.org/institutes>.

Rebuilding in Louisiana

Four years ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, including St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, home to several SIM® Professional Developers and SIM teachers. We recently received a newsletter from St. Bernard Parish Schools describing some of the rebuilding that has taken place in that community since 2005. Here are some excerpts:

It may seem hard to believe, but four years have passed since St. Bernard Parish was ravaged by the 30-foot tidal surge of Hurricane Katrina. In these four years, 39,000 St. Bernard Parish residents, nearly half of the pre-Katrina population, have returned to rebuild their homes, schools, churches, and lives....

Our school system continues its long march on the road to recovery. On August 12, 2009, we joyously opened the school year with eight school sites and 5300 students. As school began, we dedicated our newest facility, a brand new state-of-the-art Ninth Grade Academy on the Lacoste Campus of Chalmette High School. While the performance theatre, swimming pool, gymnasium and library adjacent to the academy are still under construction, our dream of opening a Ninth Grade Academy is now very much a reality.

This school year was also marked by the opening of a new student health center on the campus of Chalmette High School. The innovative facility makes immediate health care possible for our high school students right on campus....

We currently have three additional schools under construction as well as a new transportation and maintenance facility. As you can see, there is still much work being done, but progress is evident at every turn.

The newsletter goes on to thank readers for their good will and good wishes as the community rebuilds. You can visit the St. Bernard Parish Schools web site at www.stbernard.k12.la.us.

Update your listing! Visit <http://directory.kucrl.org> to update your directory information. While you're there, you can check whether our records show you as active or inactive. You also can upload your photo to make your directory listing complete.

CALENDAR 2009-2010

Jan. 15-16, 2010

The Value-Added Roles of the
Speech-Language Pathologist in
the Content Literacy Continuum®
Glen Allen, Va.
<http://kucrl.org/institutes>

Jan. 20-21, 2010

Florida Update (25th Anniversary)
Orlando, Fla.
Contacts: Mary Ann Ahearn,
ahearnm@nefec.org, and Valerie
Watson, watsonv@nefec.org

Jan. 28-30, 2010

Instructional Coaching Institute,
Level 1, Lawrence, Kan.
<http://instructionalcoach.org>

Feb. 25-27, 2010

Southeast SIM Update
Holiday Inn Historic District
Charleston, SC

May 4-5, 2010

Louisiana SIM Update (Open to all)
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact: Joyce Russo, joyce.russo@la.gov

June 1-5, 2010

SIM Learning Strategies Class for
Preservice Educators
Lawrence, Kan.
<http://kucrl.org/institutes>

June 1-5, 2010

Teaching Content to All: Effective
College Teaching
Lawrence, Kan.
<http://kucrl.org/institutes>

June 9-10, 2010

Iowa SIM Update, Des Moines, Iowa
Contact: Kara Krohn, kara.krohn@iowa.gov

June 15-18, 2010

SIM Reading and Writing Strategies
Lawrence, Kan.
<http://kucrl.org/institutes>

June 15-18, 2010

More SIM Strategies, Lawrence, Kan.
<http://kucrl.org/institutes>

June 21-25, 2010

Institute for Potential SIM Professional
Developers in Learning Strategies
Lawrence, Kan.
<http://kucrl.org/institutes>

June 21-25, 2010

Institute for Potential SIM
Professional Developers in Content
Enhancement, Lawrence, Kan.
<http://kucrl.org/institutes>

Full calendar at <http://kucrl.org>

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