Trends in Education for a Blended Learning Classroom

Dr. Sean Spear
Western Governors University
Employing technology to keep students' attention.
Connect with your students by using the tools and channels that they use most.

Tools like ExactTarget’s mobile marketing resource can help

Schools can use SMS to connect with students several ways like:

- Updating students on deadlines, coursework and schedule changes.
- Notifying classes or entire schools of emergency closures.
- Keeping staff and students informed about important events.

- 53% of college students own a smartphone
- 47% of them own a feature phone
- 93% text message on their phones
- 89% of surveyed colleges send text message alerts as a part of a crisis communication plan.
Social Media Enables Students to Educate Communities

Students can use social media to inform the public about issues.

How Schools Have Used Social Media To Address Issues:

- One class set up a Facebook page to raise awareness about an environmental problem in their community.
- They also recorded and uploaded a rap video to YouTube addressing this issue.

Schools use social media for a variety of reasons including:

- Engaging Alumni: 83%
- Engaging the Local Community: 38%

Universities are also using social media to connect with students and their communities:

- 100% of surveyed universities had a Facebook account
- 80% had a Twitter account
- 70% had a YouTube or Vimeo channel
3 UNIVERSITIES OFFER FREE non-credit ONLINE COURSES

They will continue to offer free webcasts of courses and lectures that anyone can view online.

THERE ARE A VARIETY OF FREE education resources ONLINE INCLUDING:

SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES OFFER FREE COURSEWARE, INCLUDING:

Stanford University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Johns Hopkins University

One popular Stanford University Massive Open Online Course had 160,000 participants register from 190 COUNTRIES

OpenCourseWare
Massive Open Online Courses
Online Accredited Courses*
Online Courses
DIY Degrees

*May be subscription-based
Affordable 3D printers are making more things possible in the classroom.

Tools like Cubify.com’s 5.5 inch by 5.5 inch printer can help.

Some predict that one day every classroom, if not every student, will own a 3D printer.

Since 3D printing technology is becoming more accessible to the public, more teachers and students are using it.

Some 3D printing companies are developing 3D student curricula.

3D printers have been known to create:
- Paper covered by solar cells
- Buildings from dust
- A human vein
WHAT ELSE CAN BE EXPECTED?

Here are a few more predictions:

Universities Embrace E-Books
Colleges may begin to ditch the traditional monograph in favor of less expensive e-books, which may attract more readers.

Counseling Goes High-Tech
As student-to-counselor ratios increase, some schools may opt for virtualizing college counseling. This way, students can sign up for one-on-one help when they need it.

Game-Based Learning Matures
As game-based learning becomes more accepted and effective, teachers will likely use them more often in their classrooms.

BYOD Increase in Popularity
The bring-your-own-device movement may gain in popularity as schools realize they can save big bucks by allowing students to use their personal devices in the classroom.

More Schools Will Go to The Cloud
Universities may become more cloud-based as they find it can drive down IT costs, cut application costs, and allow anytime access for faculty, staff and students.

Schools Will Embrace Open Textbooks
Colleges may opt for the low-cost and cost-free open textbooks, over traditional textbooks, which are available for students to use and teachers to modify.