



Focus on the Future

Guest Predictions: Dawn Meyer

Guest Predictions is a regular feature in which we ask leaders in a number of professions questions that affect us all.

Dawn Meyer, Executive Director, Loudoun Education Foundation

Prior to joining the Loudoun Education Foundation, Meyer had been active in Loudoun County Public Schools as both a volunteer and teacher. She taught second grade at Potowmack Elementary School from 2002 to 2005. As a volunteer, she worked in the classroom with students on reading strategies. Before working in education, Meyer was a publicist for Simon and Schuster; Farrar, Strauss & Giroux; Bantam Books; and Hyperion.

Q: What do you see as the key emerging uses of the internet in Education?

A: The Internet provides all students with the opportunity to feed their intellectual curiosity through online courses and academic forums. Not only does the Internet provide a chance for people from all walks of life to learn applicable skills and get a college degree, but it also encourages students to further explore subjects that interest them.

Q: What surprising applications of the Internet have you found in Education?

A: ITunes U has some oddly specific courses – I once caught my older daughter listening to a series of lectures called “Shoes and Sustainability.” I guess the beauty of the Internet is that there is something out there for everyone!

Q: What have been the “Best Uses” of the Internet for you in Education?

A: In addition to universalizing higher education, I just love that teachers have so many resources that are free and easily downloadable, everything from creative lesson plans to TED Talks to augment the classroom experience.

Q: What should be avoided when dealing with the Internet in Education?

A: There’s always the issue of Internet safety, especially when students and teachers are using the web. They should be extra careful when signing away personal information, like addresses or credit card numbers, to sites that claim to be legitimate.

Q: Which next steps might you recommend for all of us to take in Education?

A: Be open to change, be adaptable. Thanks to technology and the internet, the traditional school structure is changing. Electronic textbooks, online teaching, global classrooms are the future.