

New path in education celebrated

First International Digital Learning Day held in Puerto Rico

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Tom Vander Ark, founder of GettingSmart.com and director of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning

It is said that knowledge today flows in parallel rivers. These days, the image of the teacher as the one and only lightning rod of all authority is vanishing in favor of a more collective paradigm in the classroom, in terms of exchanging and managing knowledge. This shift in education to a more collective and interactive model has been achieved through the use of technology.

The traditional classroom as we have known it for about 300 years has rapidly evolved in recent years with the infusion of technology and digital resources. Educators from kindergarten to 12th grade, colleges, universities and other institutions now routinely use technology to effectively prepare students for the future.

To highlight the importance of technology, the International Digital Learning Day was recently held at Universidad del Turabo in Caguas. The main event was a symposium in which experts acclaimed in the field of digital learning shared their experiences, research and best practices for leading and implementing innovation.

The symposium's panel was composed of leading experts on digital learning, such as Tom Vander Ark, author of "Getting Smart: How Digital Learning is Changing the World," founder of GettingSmart.com and director of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL); Richard Boyd, leader of a group of innovative engineers and designers for Lockheed Martin aimed at harnessing cutting edge computer gaming and virtual world technologies to improve human performance; and Trina Trimm, cofounder & chief operating officer for VSchoolz Inc., one of the main sponsors of the event, a company which launched an international network of online schools in the U.S., China, Venezuela, Spain and Belize.

The panelists covered issues on how digital learning is changing

the world, preparing students for the future workforce, rethinking legislation policies and processes for education, what's working around the world in online learning, and how technology can meet the needs of Caribbean learners.

"Digital learning is any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen a student's learning experience," Trimm said. She added that there's a misconception in the general public that digital learning is merely online education. "Digital learning encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practices. It emphasizes high-quality instruction, provides access to challenging content, feedback through formative assessment, opportunities for learning anytime and anywhere, and individualized instruction to ensure all students reach their full potential to succeed in college and a career," she said.

VSchoolz provides schools and other educational institutions with a digital content library. Its curriculum and activities are especially designed for digital delivery, in accordance with Quality Matters online instructional design standards. The company's curriculum lessons are developed to encourage student discovery through the use of multiple sources for investigation and production. Using teacher-authoring tools, each school may take the provided content and customize its own version, according to its needs. ■

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JUEVES 28 DE FEBRERO DE 2013

Caucus con el Gobierno

Al principio de cada cuatrienio, la Asociación de Industriales celebra el Caucus con el Gobierno con el propósito de llevar a cabo una interacción y diálogo efectivo entre los Jefes de Agencias relacionadas con desarrollo económico, los socios de la Asociación y empresarios. En la actividad los Jefes de las Agencias invitadas presentan el programa de trabajo que tiene su agencia para estimular el desarrollo económico durante este cuatrienio. Por su parte, las agencias tienen la oportunidad de conocer los problemas que confrontan nuestros socios, recibir sus sugerencias y preocupaciones.

No te pierdas esta oportunidad única de reunirte con trece (13) Jefes de Agencias Gubernamentales.

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El San Juan Resort & Casino, Isla Verde
Jueves 28 de febrero de 2013
8:00am-5:00pm
Inversión: \$187.25 p/p Socios AIPR
\$262.15 p/p No Socios AIPR
Ver anejo para oportunidades de auspicio y hoja de inscripción.
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