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Report Submitted to TRC for TSSA Award in 2005-2006 (Winter 2006)

By

Amy S. C. Leh

I received a TSSA award to attend the international conference of the Society of Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) held March 18-24, 2006 in Orlando, Florida. At the conference, I focused on learning instructional strategies of the use of podcasting and its impact on student learning.

Podcasting started in September 2004 and has demonstrated its ability of making a big impact on education. This cutting-edge technology is opening a new route on disseminating information, that allows the information to be delivered to fit learners' needs, and allows students to learn in their own way. Stanford University provides students — current as well as prospective students — with considerable amount of information through podcasts, for example, virtual campus tour, financial aid information, and course lectures. Some students at Georgia State University are required to review class lectures via podcasts before they come to class and to be ready to conduct meaningful discussion. For them, taking a class means no longer to listen to instructors' lectures. Instead, podcasting allows learning anytime anywhere.

Apple's iLife 6 makes podcasting extremely easy. I went to several sections at SITE in which many participants shared how podcasting is changing their instruction and expressed how easy developing instructional podcasting materials can be. After attending those sections, I was motivated to attend a half-day podcasting workshop and registered for it at the last moment. I greatly enjoyed the workshop and plan to apply what I learned from the workshop to my hybrid courses.