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INTRODUCTION: EMERGING LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES, PEDAGOGIES, AND MARKETPLACE ISSUES

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INTRODUCTION: EMERGING LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES, PEDAGOGIES, AND MARKETPLACE ISSUES

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In this the third year of the AMCIS minitrack Emerging Learning Technologies, Pedagogies and Marketplace Issues, we observe both growth and evolution, reconfirming the importance of this subject in the IS research arena. IS academics are uniquely well-positioned to contribute, falling as they do, in the intersection of technology, learning, and research endeavor and understanding, as they do, the economic and organizational issues that must necessarily temper unbridled enthusiasm for “cool” (but often “bleeding edge”) techno-learning innovations. It is not surprising then, that submissions to the minitrack have continued to grow not just in numbers but also in terms of both breadth and sophistication.

Growing interest in the area is undoubtedly spurred by growing recognition of the power and value of learning applications in organizations across the board, public and private sector, academic, corporate or government, manufacturing or service-based in nature. The marketplace reflects this recognition and high tech leaders such as Cisco and Oracle are heavily invested in e-learning applications, seeking strategic leverage in training efficiencies for customers as well as employees. As ever-increasing levels of resources are committed to such endeavors, it is research, such as that included in this minitrack, that seeks to inform and guide the decisions and processes to help maximize their overall effectiveness.

This year, the papers run the gambit from technology-focused experiments to behaviorally-focused cases, from device-based classroom treatments to process-based organizational surveys, from studies of individual factors in students to international factors in corporate e-learning. The myriad diversity of subjects and styles in the research is reflective of that found in the e-learning application space where the frontiers are yet ill-defined and dynamic. But it is only by addressing those issues methodically and exhaustively that the frontiers may be brought into focus, and the accumulating body of literature, to which this minitrack contributes, is the means to that end. It is in this spirit that we present this year’s papers and we invite all interested colleagues to join us for three sessions that promise informative presentations and stimulating discussion.