Montlieu iPad Project

The High Point University iPad initiative with the Guilford County Schools began in 2011 as part of a sustained partnership between the School of Education and Montlieu Academy of Technology. The university and three other partners (Businesses for Excellence in Education, the William B. Millis Fund of the High Point Community Foundation and the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation) purchased iPads for all elementary student in grades K-5 in August 2011. The School of Education Technology Coordinator worked with the school principal in 2011-2012 to identify several areas of emphasis for the use of the iPads for faculty and students. In addition, graduate students enrolled in EDU 5010 spent an hour per week working with teachers and students in an assigned classroom throughout the fall semester. The goal of this project was to assist in the initial implementation of use of iPads in the classroom by providing individual and small group tutorial sessions.

In July 2012 Montlieu Academy of Technology was recognized as one of four most improved schools in Guilford County with students’ test EOG test scores increasing by 12.8 percentile points.

In 2012-2013 this partnership continued as teacher education candidates enrolled in EDU 3110 were paired with a targeted student at Montlieu to work on writing fluency. Candidates met with their assigned student weekly over the course of the semester and completed several iPad projects focused on writing using Keynote, Comic Life, and an app of the candidate’s choice. Candidates reflected on their experiences throughout the project.

In 2013-2014 the partnership continued as candidates enrolled in EDU 4511 created a series of literacy lessons using Lego Story Starters and the myCreate iPad app to work with a targeted group of students on their writing skills. The outcomes of this project included (1) students in grades K-5 receiving an additional hour of writing practice each week during the fall semester (2) students had a mentor to work with them on skills as well as serving as a role model for valuing education, and (3) candidates received valuable practice working one-on-one with struggling students and using the iPad as a positive intervention tool.

As a result of HPU’s commitment to Montlieu Academy of Technology and the success of the project, the Guilford County Schools received a 30 Million Dollar Race to the Top Grant to put tablets in the hands of all Middle School Students.

Ged O’Donnell, principal of Montlieu Academy, said his school served as the prototype school for this grant that attracted the attention of state officials and led to the school district receiving the funds. Montlieu, however, couldn’t have succeeded without the commitment from community partners like HPU, he adds.
“The time that HPU’s IT Department and faculty took to train our teachers one-on-one to implement this technology effectively in the classroom is most important to us. We are grateful for the unique and close partnership HPU has provided through this process.”