

1. The conference theme:

Reshaping Education for the 21st Century

The social network revolution is primarily a youth revolution and academic institutions are a fundamental partner in the development of this next generation. Key to leadership in the 21st century is building competence in using information technology and media, global collaboration approaches and capability in building global civil social structures. The challenge for higher education is moving away from just job creation and career development to developing critical thinkers and social innovators for sustainable development.

This should be broad enough to cover a number of approaches. I have contacted you because of your involvement and interest in education. A number of sub-themes could be identified from this and provide a richer tapestry to work from.

2. Conference process:

I envision three potential types of conference sessions:

- Workshops - These can be half day or full day workshops that work at sharing approaches and developing initiatives based on specific problems or initiatives related to sub-themes. Prospective facilitators would be asked to submit proposals for workshops. These would need to be reviewed and scheduled.
- Poster sessions - These are short session presentation, usually done as a kind of open forum or fair where participants are free to visit with the presenter. Topics are usually focused on projects or innovative solutions presented in poster form. This is a great opportunity for student participation.
- Paper Presentations - These are invited papers requested through a "call for papers". Papers are reviewed through a blind review process. This requires quite a bit of management in terms of reviewers, and management of manuscripts, but encourages academic participation as there are usually university travel budgets associated with accepted paper presentations.
- All three styles of sessions are usual at conferences that I attend and are attractive to different audiences. I am thinking that our audience is primarily educators and students interested in service learning and global education efforts.

3. Participants:

- ICA network participants concerned with reshaping education for the 21st century. Those currently working with K-12, University education, Adult education, Service learning, etc.
- Education colleagues who share the same concerns or issues.
- Students interested in study abroad, global education reform, service learning.

4. Virtual conference options:

- We should also think about virtual conference activities before during and after the conference. For example, I am teaching a general education course for University students called "Global Social Networks". I am planning on having my students work on the conference over the next year as a class project. We could combine the conference with ICA-USA service learning initiatives and activities.
- Skype-cast the conference to multiple locations during the event.
- Pre and Post conference think-tanks and projects.
- Well that is the extent of my brainstorm so far. Please send me your ideas and reactions.

Thanks for your consideration of participation.

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