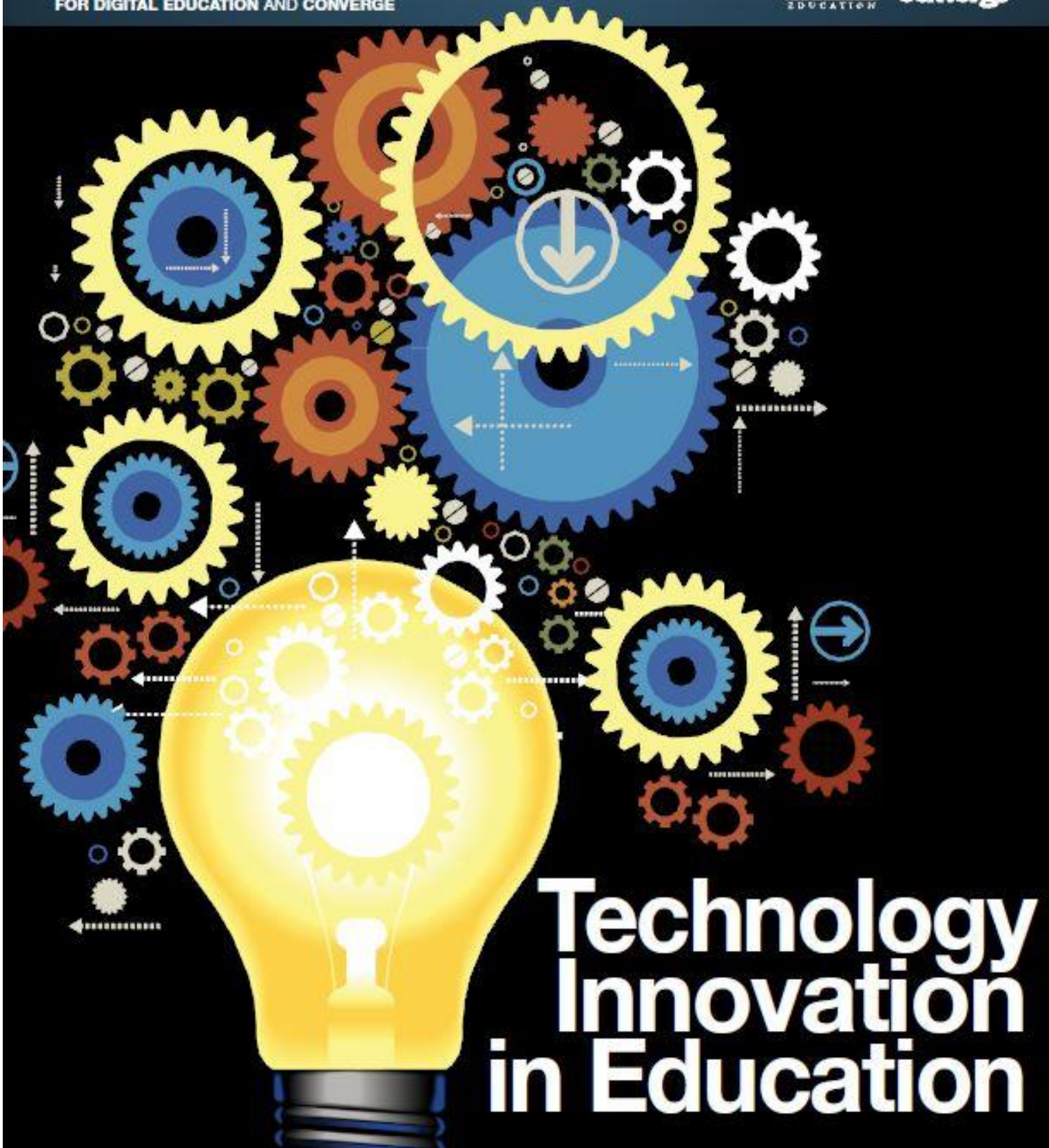


2012 YEARBOOK

A RESEARCH REPORT FROM THE CENTER
FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION AND CONVERGE

CENTER FOR
DIGITAL **converge**
EDUCATION



Technology Innovation in Education



50

TOP

INNOVATORS IN EDUCATION

When profiling the following 50 educators, one thing that constantly surfaced was that technology does not transform learning itself. It is an aid and a tool to effective, creative instruction that only can come from properly trained and innovative instructors. This is our chance to highlight the hard work and tireless efforts of some of these innovators.

Although the latest and greatest technology often steals the spotlight, we know that without the dedication of these education technology leaders, the transformation to teaching and learning sweeping the nation would not be occurring.

Keith Mispagel

Superintendent
Fort Leavenworth Unified School
District #207, Kansas

As superintendent of Fort Leavenworth Unified School District #207, Mispagel supported and actively engaged with his staff to build a "Cyber-TEAMS" initiative, which provides professional development to teachers across the district to drive innovation and share student achievement through advanced technology tools. Mispagel also promoted the development of the program at the state and national level and was instrumental in the process of identifying and receiving grant funding. Mispagel believes the best strategy for success is to have professional development early and often. He has dedicated significant time and resources to ensure his staff are trained and comfortable in utilizing the technology implemented. The teachers in his district pilot, gather data, implement and develop a plan for rollout of the technology. Through the Cyber-TEAMS initiative, Mispagel has led the staff to create their own model of STEM (plus arts) curriculum, which has helped the teachers to inspire creativity, empower critical thinking and foster student collaboration. He notes that

the future leaders of the country must possess technology skills, and comments that it must start at the earliest stages of learning. He believes that to continue teaching only using traditional methods does not

engage the abilities or the potential academic advancement of the younger population in a digital age, and that school and learning should be a fun and engaging experience to set the stage for future success.



Daniel Stein

Director of Technology Initiatives and Assistant to the Vice President
Touro College School of Education, N.Y.

Stein has virtually redefined the nature and format of graduate education courses at Touro College by transforming them from traditional, text-driven studies about educational theory and practice into exciting, hands-on experiences in which the student directly prepares digital resources for his or her own classroom. Stein's courses turn his graduate education students into teachers who are comfortable with

“Anything short of wisely embracing emerging technologies and teaching our students to create a professional and ethical online presence inhibits our youth from reaching their full potential.”

and sophisticated in the use of Web 2.0 technologies, ready to bring these skills into their K-12 classrooms. Students are required to prepare their assignments as pages of a personal/professional website, and learn how to incorporate user-friendly, free resources like Google Sites, JING and YouTube effectively in class. His assignments realign teacher/learner roles, and students learn education content and teaching skills through research and information gathering to inform their assignments.

Their websites are professional products designed to teach others what they have learned; they also function as e-portfolios, with all assignments archived and easily accessible to fellow students, professors and colleagues. This makes it easier for students when looking for a job since principals can easily see their accomplishments and potential. Stein's innovative classes have become very popular at Touro, with hundreds of students moving through them and eventually taking positions in public schools throughout New York City and the state. Furthermore, Stein designs his course resources and approaches to be highly replicable by teacher education colleagues at Touro and beyond, and has shared them extensively through faculty development workshops and webinars.