

*Another Advancement In*

# STEM Education



*Iowa State University informing decision-makers about research in Science–Technology–Engineering–Mathematics Education*

## ***Blogging best ‘bang for your buck,’ according to tech guru Scott McLeod***

Blogging has become one of society’s most powerful forms of communication. However most wouldn’t expect educators – or the educators of educators – to promote the practice as time well spent at work.

Scott McLeod sees it differently. McLeod is a traditional academic in many respects: He’s an associate professor in educational leadership and policy studies, the coordinator of the department’s educational administration program, and director of the UCEA Center for the Advanced Study of Technology Leadership in Education (CASTLE). Still, there’s another reason his name is among the hottest in education: He created, oversees, and regularly contributes to several well-known blogs – with at least one more in the works.

“If you’re looking for bang for [your] buck, you can’t go wrong with blogging,” McLeod said. “I work with some phenomenal researchers and education experts, but for what I’m trying to do, a blog is the best way to reach people and facilitate change in schools.”

McLeod estimates that 5,000 people visit his Dangerously Irrelevant blog on a daily basis, a site dedicated to helping educators resolve incongruities between a technology-driven society and traditional education curriculum. Moreover, millions of educators share best practices and real-life examples via his other online resources, including CASTLE’s LeaderTalk blog hosted at Education Week, the CASTLE Conversations podcast channel, the Moving Forward wiki, and CASTLE’s Principal Blogging Project.



*Scott McLeod, associate professor in educational leadership and policy studies, is one of the nation’s foremost experts on technology in the classroom.*

“Short of writing a best-selling book, there is no better way to interact with this many people,” McLeod said. “The success stories and questions I get every day speak to [blogging’s] tremendous impact.”

The purpose of all this blogging? To better educate and prepare administrators, teachers, and parents for what their students already know. McLeod said schools must begin playing a major role in teaching youth to use technology in productive ways.

“If technology [were] readily used in every classroom, it would create a much more dynamic learning environment,” McLeod said. “We would have students engaging in discovery learning, working in collaborative teams like they would in the workplace, and sharing their knowledge and experiences with other students through blogs, wikis, and other online channels.”

### ***For more information:***

Check out other STEM education stories on the College of Human Sciences web site and links to Scott McLeod’s blogs at [www.hs.iastate.edu/news/stem](http://www.hs.iastate.edu/news/stem).