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EDCT 693 – Portfolio
Portfolio Modifications Paper

This Master's Program, Computer Education and Technology, has been a very growing experience for me. The two projects I decided to revise help make a professional development for teachers, which is a combination of video tutorials and a website. This professional development was designed as part of the Instructional Design course to train teachers and students how to use the Internet safely. The webpage was designed as part of Educational Applications of the Internet (Dreamweaver) course, using design principles to create an easy to use and professional looking webpage. The video tutorials were created with knowledge learned from the Leadership and Professional Development in Technology course as well as the Instructional Multimedia course. I also redesigned the website logo with Photoshop skills learned in the Visual Literacy course.

The SafetySearch (title of the professional development website) website was modified from a visual perspective to create a more professional looking teaching aid. The original was functional, just not visually appealing with the layout and graphics that I used. With each design theory I've learned in the program in the five quarters since I designed the original website, I've wanted to add to this website to make it better. As I thought about my creative portfolio, I knew I wanted to redesign this website. I changed the color scheme from a blue and green to shades of gray, creating a more professional and inviting appearance. I designed a template webpage, and then used that template to create the rest of the website, which gave a better uniform appearance compared with the original version where there were some subtle differences that would be annoying to some viewers, including myself. I modified some of the textual content of the website, trying to make the SafetySearch website an inviting and professional appearance to allow teachers and student users to focus on the content and material without being distracted by the layout and appearance of the website. The enhancements to this

website help make a better teaching tool by streamlining some of the functionality and allowing the user's attention to remain on the content, not the appearance.

The video tutorials that I revised are the result of many skills I've learned, from the technical skills of creating the videos, to the design theories, and the professional development techniques. The original videos did not have a menu screen, and were created in one continuous take. The one continuous take had some minor flaws, in my opinion, where I had some misused words and I feel that I also 'rambled' where the video seemed to drag. I decided I could create a much better group of videos that could foster a much better learning tool for teacher and student users. I added a menu screen, which adds a much more professional appearance to the videos, allowing the users to know what the content of the video will be, and also to keep them from noticing the poorer quality of the video and be distracted from the content. I created the videos with the use of smaller, shorter recording takes; which made it easier for me to create a better, more efficient, concise, and productive video. The revised videos are also shorter than the originals, allowing the users to get the information in a quick and efficient manner. I used some editing skills in Adobe Premiere Elements after recording the video using Camtasia, then converted the videos to Flash (.swf) for viewing on a website.

One of the skills I have really enjoyed learning from this Computer Education and Technology program is the ability to create computer videos. I have honed these skills quite a bit, using design theories, instructional design principles, and presentation ideas to make a better video. All of the practice I have had over the past two years as I've created many videos from my classroom have given me the ability to produce a more professional looking video, which helped in the revision of these videos to make a better learning opportunity for video users.

Both of these project revisions help make much better teaching tools that could be used to help teachers or students. A professional appearance, for both revisions, help promote an ease of use for teachers and students, making the projects more efficient and productive for learning. I think these

revisions are an example of the skills and knowledge that I've learned and the ability that I now have to implement these skills in my craft as a teacher within my classroom and as a technology leader within my school building and district.

The two new projects I've included with my creative portfolio are both videos. One is a promotional video that I made for Round Lake Christian Assembly, using the week of Senior High Wilderness that I was the dean. The video was created throughout the week and shown to the campers on the last day of church camp in the summer of 2008. The example I've added in my portfolio is a shortened version and rendered in less resolution so it would be web-ready for RLCA's website. This video is currently being used on RLCA's website to promote the camp, helping to teach potential campers of some of the events that occur. The second new project in my creative portfolio is a Flash Application Video that my school district, Reynoldsburg City Schools, can use to help educate staff and community on the STEM Initiative (Science Technology Engineering and Math) that is being planned for the district. I have already forwarded this STEM video to other people in RCSD so they can offer suggestions for change if this is something the district will want to use to educate teachers, students, parents, and community members.