



Nutrition for Family Living

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Cooperative Extension and Technology Preconference Highlights
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Cooperative Extension and Technology Preconference Highlights

By Gayle Coleman

The 2009 Food and Nutrition Extension Educators (FNEE) division preconference to the Society of Nutrition Education (SNE) annual conference focused on various ways technology is being used to provide nutrition education. The PowerPoint presentations from this session along with additional resources are available through eXtension at <http://collaborate.extension.org/wiki/FNEE>.

Kathleen Morgan from Rutgers University and Rhonda Conlon from North Carolina State University launched the session with an overview of various technologies such as social networking, podcasts and clickers. They included reasons educators might choose these technologies and incorporated “real time” slides of the audience’s responses to questions using clickers. Rhonda explained that photo sharing sites such as flickr® utilize a “Creative Commons” license (see <http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>) to expedite the use of other people’s photographs in educational materials.

Michael Lambur from Virginia Tech described eXtension and showed us the new *Families, Food and Fitness* site. Mike told us about an informal “study” that a professor did because he was concerned that wikis, a vehicle for sharing information on line, might promote incorrect information. The professor modified an existing wiki to include several pieces of incorrect information. He was amazed that within 2 hours others had corrected all of the mistakes.

Christina Stark from Cornell shared information on the development and implementation of the *Cornell NutritionWorks* on-line courses for nutrition professionals (see <http://www.nutritionworks.cornell.edu/home/index.cfm>). She demonstrated a way to assess achievement of learning outcomes via immediate feedback using clickers that had been signed out to all audience members for the workshop.

Julie Garden-Robinson wrapped up the session with a presentation on how North Dakota State University Extension is using FaceBook to promote healthy eating and physical activity. Julie shared with us how North Dakota used social networking to communicate logistics and get information to people during the severe floods that her state experienced earlier this year.

Resources for the workshop were pre-loaded onto flashdrives that were handed out to all participants.

Once I returned to Wisconsin, I spent some time further exploring eXtension’s new Families, Food and Fitness site, <http://www.extension.org/families%20food%20fitness>. This site is a great resource for newsletter articles, recipes and videos/interactive learning. I viewed the ‘Limit TV Viewing’ video segment and thought it was very well done and might be a nice addition to some of our lessons.

In summary, the FNEE preconference was a great professional development opportunity for me. The flashdrive and eXtension link that contains all the resources from this preconference plus other resources are excellent tools for sharing the content of the preconference beyond those who attended it in person.



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Implications for Extension Educators: Technology expands the tools that we can use to reach learners, identify and share educational materials, collect/report evaluation data, and stay informed through electronic professional development. FLP teams, county office administrators and others can facilitate efficient use of technology by expanding access to high speed Internet connections, avoiding overuse of Internet site-blocking software, providing updated equipment, and offering specialized training.



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Resources Recently Added to FLP/WNEP Resource Database

Rethink Your Drink flip chart and support materials,

https://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/apps/flrc/tch_res2/resourceDetails.cfm?rid=3727

Great Northern Beans display and support materials,

https://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/apps/flrc/tch_res2/resourceDetails.cfm?rid=4395

Non-fat dry milk display and support materials,

https://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/apps/flrc/tch_res2/resourceDetails.cfm?rid=4402