

Chapter 20

Integrating Digital/Mobile Learning Strategies With Students in the Classroom at the Historical Black College/University (HBCU)

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ABSTRACT

Today's digital classroom must include contemporary learning strategies to interest the millennial students. Students are learning the latest digital/mobile technologies daily. Likewise, the professors must keep up with students and encourage universities to invest in digital technologies. Without this, how can students be ready for the working world and the global impact of education? Of course, this is not a question to answer right now; however, educators must take it serious in preparing students for the competitive workforce. Faculty must stay current with the latest digital/mobile technology and seek in

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novative strategies to keep abreast of research within the discipline area. This chapter's purpose is to: 1) examine authors' perception of digital/mobile learning technologies at HBCUs; 2) examine research on digital/mobile technology in classrooms; 3) discuss teaching and learning strategies that can impact the digital/mobile learning environment; and 4) note the global impact of learning strategies in classrooms.

INTRODUCTION

Today's digital classroom is one that must include contemporary learning strategies that can keep the interest of millennial students. Students are learning the latest digital and mobile technologies daily. Likewise, the professors must keep up with the millennial students, and the universities must invest in the latest digital technologies. Without the latest technologies in the digital world, how can the student be ready for the world of work and the global impact of education? Of course, this is not a question to answer at this point; however, it is one that education must take seriously to fulfill students' dreams of being prepared for the competitive workforce world. In working with millennial students, faculty must be up to date on the latest digital and mobile technology and innovative strategies to stay current with research and effective teaching strategies within the discipline area.

BACKGROUND/THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

During the last 10 years, postsecondary education has shifted from the traditional face-to-face classroom style of teaching to incorporate technology that focuses more on digital and mobile learning. Today's students are equipped with iPads and tablets at an early age and are not afraid to explore new technology as soon as it become available. The rapid advancement of technology over the last two decades has changed the dynamics of teaching and learning in the 21st Century. Educators are now expected to integrate technology in the classroom to meet the needs of today's learners (Henderson & Chapman, 2012). Therefore, faculty must learn strategies to engage college students, especially at Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), by promoting digital learning. Digital learning is not limited to teaching online courses. It includes mobile technology that can enhance learning and is accessible to students "anywhere" and at "anytime" (Tseng, Tang, & Morris, 2016, p.199). "As mobile technology promotes learning accessibility and flexibility, students can benefit from social interaction through the learning process which will also foster students' performance and satisfaction on learning content" (Tseng, Tang, & Morris, 2016, p.199). Overall, digital learning is necessary "to create a system that contributes to deeper learning and produces a new generation of students equipped to thrive in college and their careers" (VanderArk & Schneider, n.d., p.6).

The terms digital learning and mobile learning encompass a vast array of modern tools utilized to enhance teaching and student learning. Digital learning is learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control. Digital learning requires a combination of technology (mechanism to deliver content), digital content (high quality academic material delivered through technology) and instruction (personalized guidance and assistance to ensure students learn and stay on track) ("What is Digital", n.d.). It includes learning tools such as e-books, iTunes, blogs, wikis, podcasts and learning management systems (LMS) – such as Blackboard. Students are able to utilize the LMS for various academic activities such as downloading lecture notes or uploading assignments. Similarly, faculty members

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