Boise State case study in new iNACOL report on 21st Century models for teacher preparation

A Boise State EdTech initiative to create a state endorsement for K-12 online teachers in 2011 was the first of seven case studies released this month by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning — iNACOL at its annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

The report—Partnering for Success: A 21st Century Model for Teacher Preparation—“studies the best practices necessary to rethink the skills, methods and pedagogical evolution that teacher education must address,” according to iNACOL President and CEO Susan Patrick.

“If we are to ensure great teachers are trained, mentored and retained for our students — the programs themselves must emulate 21st century skills for individualized student learning — no matter where or how a student learns best. The examples found in this report have unique elements and frameworks that others may learn from and replicate,” she said.

Boise State’s case study was written by EdTech faculty members Kerry Rice, who was involved in the statewide initiative from concept to completion, and Dazhi Yang. It explains how Boise State Ed-Tech’s partnership with Idaho Digital Academy created important policy changes in Idaho education.

INACOL’s Patrick said a 2012 study found that “a paltry 1.3%” of teacher education programs are preparing teachers for next-generation learning models.

“That survey and subsequent studies have identified the need for a dramatic shift in the skills and methods for educator preparation toward next generation learning models, which require many of the same skills as traditional education, yet a more comprehensive set of skills to navigate a diverse range of learning environments — including blended, online, competency-based models emerging in anytime, everywhere traditional classrooms and schools.”