

Preface

The world today is one of change. The borders between countries are blurring, economies and ideologies are rapidly evolving, and methodologies for conducting business are no longer limited to geography. Along with these changes, the economic disparity between people is growing. But, education has always served as the common denominator between these two poles, and technology can be a formula to success and to help bridge economic and social divides. New and evolving technologies must be continually incorporated into the education system for individuals to remain competitive in the world marketplace and help maintain balance among members of society. Administrators, educators, and students must take the lead in using the technologies of today and learning those of tomorrow with the assistance of technology leaders. Technology leaders are active participants in the integration of instructional technologies, and help direct and manage larger technology systems within educational institutions. To assist administrators, educators, and students in effectively using emerging technologies, technology leaders must perform certain responsibilities and lead projects that help promote the integration of technology. Knowing what is involved in leading technology projects is crucial for technology leaders. This reference book, *Technology Integration and Foundations for Effective Leadership*, provides the foundation for technology leaders to better improve the integration of technology into the teaching and learning environments.

An effective technology leader is a public advocate of the mission-driven use of technology, capable of providing guidance in various aspects of using technologies such as technology plans, professional development training, distribution of information and technology know-how, and other related responsibilities such as management and purchasing. A technology leader should be fully involved in creating a technology plan, which can provide the necessary direction for a school district or college to understand where they are today and where they hope to be in the future. Planning provides the direction for the successful integration of technology into the existing educational environment with an eye toward the future. For the technology leader, another major responsibility is to provide professional training to faculty and staff in keeping up with the development of technologies and motivating them to continuously adapt and learn new material and application strategies. Professional development not only involves the actual training that educators receive for learning new skills and strategies, but also requires instruction that assists educators to impact student/classroom learning. Among other responsibilities at research intensive institutions such as universities, technology leaders are expected to conduct research, write and publish manuscripts in peer-viewed journals, and secure external funding to promote technology integration. Because of the high demands of today's leaders, understanding how to effectively manage time as a professional is difficult. Further, learning what each entity encompasses is also difficult without some prior knowledge of the processes. By better understanding each of these entities, individuals will be able to manage their time more effectively and have a foundational knowledge to assist them with

engaging in these activities. Finally, understanding one's responsibilities in the field is important for a technology leader to ensure successful technology integration. Without knowledge of one's roles and responsibilities in the position, performing routine tasks may become difficult.

Technology Integration and Foundations for Effective Leadership provides detailed information on these aspects. The book can serve as a reference for technology professionals or leaders in the education field to make certain that he/she performs all of the tasks and obligations necessary. As the technology leader reads through the chapters, he/she will obtain a sense of structure and basic information on designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating technology projects to ensure maximum success.

Technology Integration and Foundations for Effective Leadership includes six sections: Section 1: *Technology Leadership Foundations* (chapter 1–4), Section 2: *Technology Planning for the Technology Leader* (chapter 5–8), Section 3: *Leading the Professional Development* (chapter 9–12), Section 4: *Responsibilities of A Technology Leader* (chapter 13–15), Section 5: *Practical Cases For Technology Leaders* (chapter 16–18), Section 6: *Research, Grants, and Networks for Technology Leaders* (chapter 19–21). Each section discusses different components and responsibilities that technology leaders may encounter in the professional field. Topics addressed in the sections will hopefully provide the technology leader with a better understanding of the issues involved when managing, implementing, and evaluating technology at educational institutions.

The objectives of this book are two-fold. One objective is that the technology professional will be able to identify and define theoretical aspects of technology leadership. *Technology Integration and Foundations for Effective Leadership* includes sections that not only provide general information, but also the major components, procedures, and evaluations of creating a technology plan, conducting professional development, communicating necessary information, and discussing responsibilities of the technology leader. The second objective is to provide the technology leader with concepts, tools, strategies, and applications through reference citations. These types of resources accommodate the theoretical aspects of the book as the technology professional practices the tasks that have been discussed. In short, the book is intended to guide the new technology professional into performing all of the roles and responsibilities appropriated to him/her. Furthermore, the book serves as a systematic introduction to the profession as a whole for those studying to become technology leaders in education.

The target audience includes technology coordinators, technology specialists, educators, trainers, and administrators working in K-20 settings in various disciplines (e.g., education, corporate training, instructional technology, workforce development). Almost every institution has someone who acts as a technology leader from organizing technology training to employees toward developing complete technology systems (e.g., computer labs, networks/telecommunications). Thus, *Technology Integration and Foundations for Effective Leadership* would be applicable to anyone who is in this role of integrating technology for teaching, training, or learning purposes. The book may also be adopted for support of educational technology related subjects in advanced college curriculums. Graduate programs in administration or instructional technology would likely become audiences for this book because of its broad content. In short, anyone who plans to lead technology integration now or in the future should benefit from the content provided in this book.

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