Mochudu Machaba – Teaching with Technology

Overview

Country: South Africa
Location: Ngwanamago Primary School, Limpopo
Industry: Education

Software and services:
Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert program

Websites:
www.ngwanamagoprimary.co.za/
www.education.microsoft.com

Partners:
SchoolNet SA

Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts advance the conversation about improving student outcomes through innovative uses of technology in teaching and learning.

Mochudu Machaba is a Grade 5 and 6 teacher at Ngwanamago Primary School situated around 25 kilometers from Polokwane in South Africa's Limpopo province. She first became interested in technology and especially the use of Microsoft applications when CozaCares Foundation trained teachers in her area in the use of technology and she was recognized as an ISPA SuperTeacher in 2013. For her entry into this competition Mochudu created a project using Microsoft's SongSmith in which her learners created their own tunes and lyrics.

Mokhudu heard about the Microsoft Innovative Teacher competition at one of the SchoolNet South Africa ICT in the Classroom Conferences and was immediately interested in entering the competition. *"I decided to do a project with my learners using Microsoft's free tools and I uploaded it to the Microsoft Educator Network."* Even though her school is poorly equipped in technology Mochudu feels that the learners deserve to be exposed to interesting lessons that use technology, so she prepares at home and then uses her laptop and the school's data projector to present her lessons with the aim of inspiring her Grade 5 and 6 learners.

Mochudu uploaded six learning activities to the Microsoft Educator Network and has joined the new Microsoft Educator Community, where by the start of 2016 she has been awarded six badges for being an Educator Community Influencer and Contributor, an MIE Trainer and Master Trainer

"The Microsoft E2 Educator Exchange taught me a lot of things, mainly to start doing things differently. Now when I look at education in my country I look to see what changes I can make that will benefit my learners."

"The teachers at my school are very interested in technology but they get discouraged about the lack of resources. Yet, they tell me that they are inspired by what I have taught them using the Teaching with Technology course."

Mochudu Machaba
Ngwanamago Primary School

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:
https://education.microsoft.com

To find out about the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert program, see:
http://www.educatornetwork.com/Sites/Educators/Index

For more information about Ngwanamago Primary School, visit:
www.ngwanamagoprimary.co.za/

Inspiring E2 Educator Exchange

In 2015, Mochudu was recognized as a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIE) for her Marula project and was selected to attend the Microsoft E2 Global Teacher Exchange in Seattle along with three other South African teachers. She says, "This was a mind-blowing experience for me. It was a great achievement for my school. They were very proud of me. My learning activity centered on the Marula tree which we have in our school yard. We used the tree for research to see what we could use it for, and we ended up producing our own juice, our own jam and nuts."

Mochudu says she feels honored to have been selected for the E2 Global Teacher Exchange in Seattle. "The Global E2 conference was amazing. We were given a group task to develop a learning activity that could be used and accessed all around the world. Our group won second place." Mokhudu's group tackled a project on everyday heroes and despite the language barriers they pushed through and developed a great project that others can use.

"It was a great experience for me, meeting new people from different backgrounds. It taught me a lot of things mainly to start doing things differently. Now when I look at education in my country I look to see what changes I can make that will benefit my learners. We had incredible speakers at the E2 Conference. They changed my thinking completely. We have to work through all the obstacles of life and make a way for things that have to happen in education. I can still hear Angela Maeiers asking "How big is your brave?"

Teaching with Technology

Mochudu is very familiar with Microsoft's Teaching with Technology course. In addition to having completed the course herself, and having encouraged colleagues to do so, she has also run a series of professional development sessions on it for teachers in Mogodumo Circuit.

Mokhudu feels that this course is exactly what teachers need to get familiar with using technology for teaching and learning in the classroom. For trainers, the Teaching with Technology courseware already exists, so trainers do not have to produce their own materials. Once teachers have been introduced to the course, they can then work through the various modules and quizzes at their own pace as it suits them. Teachers who successfully complete the online course are able to get a certificate which is endorsed by the South African Council of Educators which counts for fifteen professional development points through SchoolNet SA. This means that teachers are formally recognized for their learning.

"The Teaching with Technology course is what I use most of the time to teach my colleagues whether at my school or in the district. It helps the teacher to get on board using ICT. It takes a lot of commitment for the teachers to do this online course but if you finish the course you get a badge. I really thank Microsoft for its impact in my life."

Key Technology
- Microsoft Educator Community
- Teaching with Technology