Education

Intel® Skills for Innovation Case Study

Technology Becomes a Vital Teaching Tool at OSP

Adopting a new role for technology in the classroom helps educators at Options Secondary Program (OSP) boost student engagement.

Options Secondary Program Vision

To create a purposeful community that values meaningful relationships, an engaging learning environment, and a dedication to academic and personal success.

Options Secondary Program in Littleton, Colorado, an alternative program for students in grades 6 through 12, serves students with unique learning needs from throughout the large Littleton School District. Recently, educators at OSP enrolled in training courses through the Intel® Skills for Innovation (Intel® SFI) Professional Development Program to learn how to better equip their students with future-ready skills. The courses are designed to help educators effectively integrate technology into everyday teaching and learning to foster skill building. Inspired by the training, the educators began trying novel approaches to using technology in the classroom, resulting in increased engagement and enthusiasm from students and educators alike.

Challenges

- Increase educators' awareness of the value of technology as a vital learning tool versus simply as a means to access content and provide entertainment.
- Inspire and guide educators to create lesson plans that integrate technology activities into day-to-day teaching to help students develop critical mindsets and skillsets for real-world problem-solving.
- Demonstrate ways that educators, no matter their level of digital proficiency, can incorporate cutting-edge technology into everyday lessons to boost student engagement in a wide variety of curricular subjects.

Solution

Intel SFI Professional Development empowers educators to become leaders of learning experiences and facilitators of future-ready skill building with tools and modular training curated to address their needs. Content is available on the Intel SFI Learning Platform, which offers a rich, interactive, professional learning community with collaborative features and resources for educators.

Results

Through the training, OSP educators gained the knowledge and skills to:

- Use technology in everyday teaching as a tool to connect curriculum concepts to real-world scenarios, enhancing student engagement and understanding
- Maximize the value of technology in the classroom by creating technology-infused learning experiences that prepare students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) workplace
- Inspire enthusiasm and collaboration among teachers and between students and teachers to explore best practices and new applications for technology in education

Empowering Educators to Lead Technology-Infused Learning Experiences

Options Secondary Program offers a non-traditional, highly structured educational setting. The school's passionate staff strives to meet students' needs by using a variety of approaches and activities to teach a skill-based curriculum designed to promote maximum success. The emphasis is on finding what works.

"The flexibility built into the program makes a huge difference. The fact that courses are designed for people with different technology skill levels—and that they can be taken anytime—shows a clear understanding of teachers' daily reality—a full calendar, which means that every minute has to be used as effectively as possible.

Jeff Pickering
Assistant Principal

Intel Skills for Innovation Professional Development Suite

Intel SFI Professional Development is designed to help educators master technology integration with a step-up model carefully curated to address the needs of educators in varying stages of adapting technology in learning. The program includes four levels designed to transition educators from adapters of technology to mentors of innovation.

Modules and courses are available on the Intel SFI Learning Platform, where educators also can find up-to-date information on trends impacting the future of today's learners and technology tools that enhance their ability to adapt their teaching to these trends.

1 Adapter

Adapt Technology

This optional level is for educators who are new to technology in education. It supports them in building basic digital fluency through a mix of face-to-face and online modules.

2 Owner

Lead Learning Experiences

Level 2 helps educators transition from being content experts to effectively owning and leading learning experiences.

3 Catalyst

Catalyze Creative Confidence

In Level 3, educators are challenged to reimagine learning experiences using technology, thus empowering students to become confident innovators.

4 Mentor

Mentor Upgraded Mindsets

Level 4 introduces educators to the upgraded mindsets that are essential for students to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and successfully navigate unknowns of tomorrow.

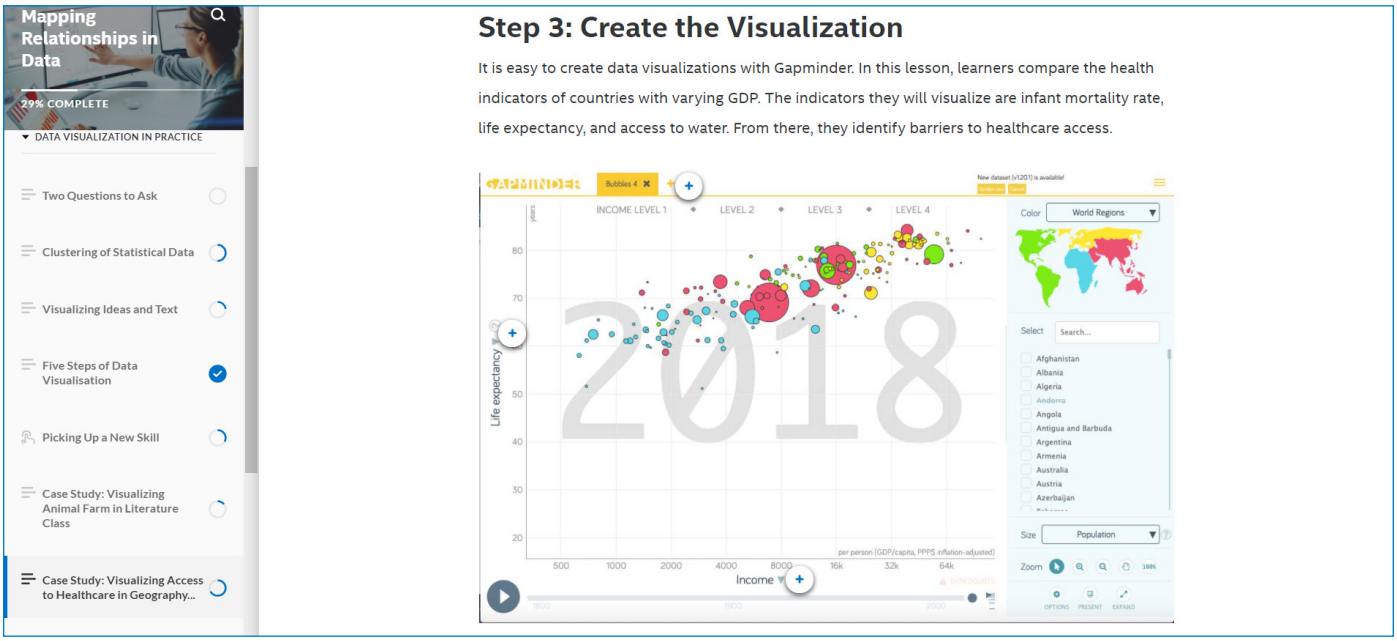
Meeting Educators Where They Are

For educators, whose schedules often are already full, finding time to fit in learning about technology integration can seem challenging. The modular structure of the Intel SFI program solves this problem by allowing for flexibility and customization.

Not only can educators choose the level of instruction that most closely matches their technology skill level, but within each level they have the choice of which topics to pursue. And because courses are available via the online learning platform, they can be accessed when convenient. For the Options educators, this ability to tailor the learning to their needs and schedules proved to be a tremendous benefit.

> "...it was nice for me to pick an area I wanted to learn more about versus... just having to start from the beginning of something that I may have already known."
>
> **Carol Boorom**
> Language Arts Educator

Figure 1. Educators are introduced to data visualization tools such as Gapminder, one of the many bite-sized lessons in the Mapping Relationships in Data courselet.



Building 4IR Skills through Real-World Connections That Increase Engagement

With their focus on providing support to students with unique learning needs, the educators quickly identified ways to apply the lessons learned through professional development in their own classrooms. Language arts educator Lexi Karet observed the power of connecting curriculum concepts to real-world problem-solving with the help of technology. She finds it refreshing, she said, to see student interest in a subject increase when they are able to use technology to make that connection. Inspired by student response, she and her colleagues are now well on their way to transforming the role of technology in their classrooms—no longer just a tool to access content, it has become a gateway to rich learning experiences that may take place in person, online, or in a hybrid environment.

Summary

Through their participation in the Intel SFI Professional Development Program, educators at OSP renewed their passion for teaching and discovered new ways to help their students develop vital skills for future workplace success. The program showed them that technology could be much more than the "distraction" some initially perceived it to be. Instead, they experienced technology as a powerful tool that, when used appropriately, can equip students to become the innovators and capable digital citizens of tomorrow.

"I plan to...add more technology into the classroom each and every day ... it's important that they're able to appropriately use their technology every class period."

Nathan Johnson
Social Studies Educator

About Intel Skills for Innovation Framework

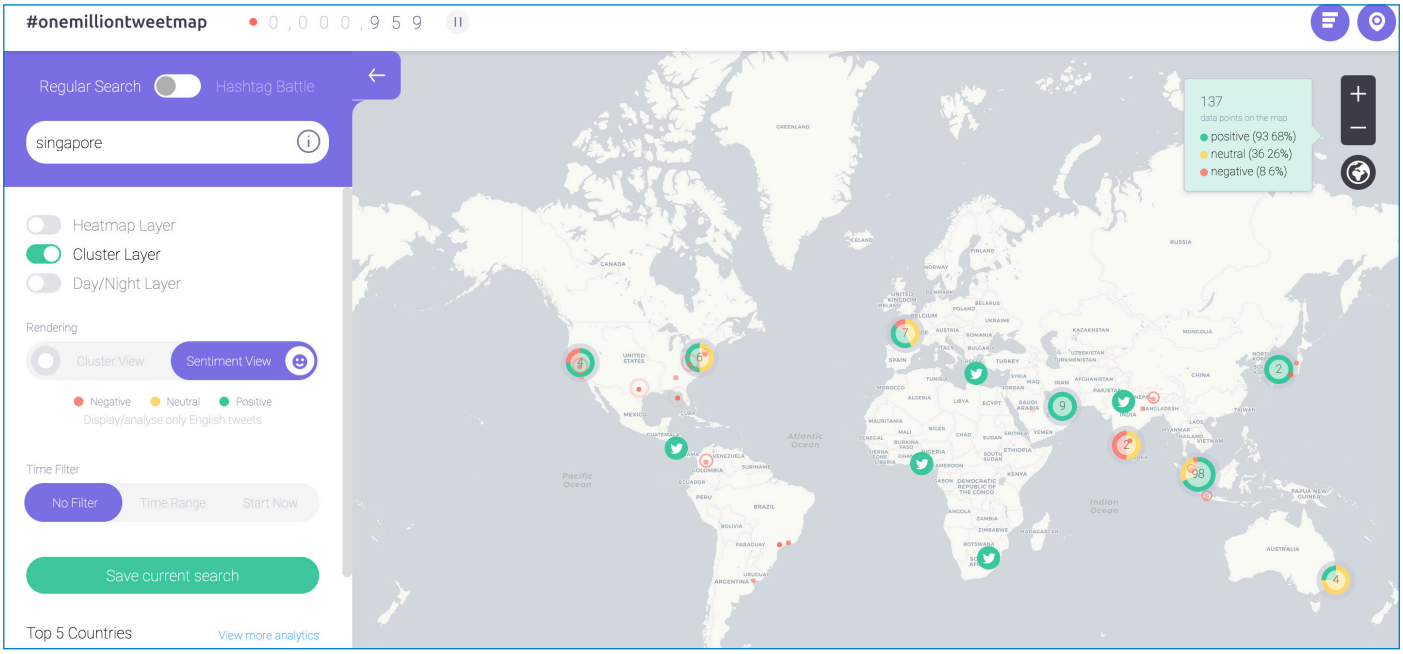
Intel Skills for Innovation Framework empowers educators to become leaders of technology-infused learning experiences. Using the framework helps educators integrate technology into their programs and plans to build skills and help students develop their cognitive, technical, and social-emotional skills.

For more information, visit **skillsforinnovation.intel.com**

Ready to Get Started?

Intel SFI Professional Development is designed to meet the evolving pedagogical needs of educators who are preparing learners for a future workforce. The program is available under license from Intel. For more information, please contact your Intel Technology Provider.

Figure 2. Educators can learn how to use the social media tool #onemilliontweetmap, which visualizes and aggregates Twitter data on a world map, to encourage students to think about new ways of drawing meaning from Big Data.



Watch the video

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