

**Title of Session:** Keynote Speakers  
**Moderator:** Will Richardson and Midge Frazel  
**Title of File:** Keynote Address  
**Date:** July 19, 2006

Room: After School Online

**BJ:** Welcome, everyone, to the Annual Tapped In Festival

**BJ:** we are honored to have two excellent guest speakers as our Keynotes

**BJ:** Please welcome Will Richardson and Midge Frazel

**WillR:** Good morning (or afternoon, or evening,) and thanks for the invite to be a part of Tapped In's online Festival.

**WillR:** I get to spend a few minutes talking (writing) about some new Web tools and how they have transformed my own learning and given me perpetual opportunities for professional development.

**WillR:** I'll try to leave some time at the end for questions.

**WillR:** I'm a blogger by trade...

**WillR:** And my blog is at <http://www.weblogg-ed.com> if you are interested.

**WillR:** So let's get started.

**WillR:** I'll try to leave some time at the end for questions.

**WillR:** First, I think the world is changing in significant ways thanks to a number of new Web centered tools.

**WillR:** We are now able not only to consume content easily but we can create and share knowledge easily as well.

**WillR:** It's where I do all of my professional development...

**WillR:** So, like I was saying, Instead of a "read" only web, it's now a "read/write" Web. "Web 2.0."

**WillR:** It's changing journalism (everyone has a printing press), business (markets are now conversations), politics (grassroots voices) and ultimately, education.

**WillR:** Right now, there are over a billion people on the Web now, 1 billion more in 2015.

**WillR:** To me, that means there are a billion potential teachers/opportunities to learn.

**WillR:** And to me, professional development IS learning.

**WillR:** That also means that there are over a billion potential connections that can be made to the content we create.

**WillR:** That's an amazing opportunity...

**WillR:** Learning changes in this environment in that we can be truly self-directed if we have access.

**WillR:** Learning how to learn becomes more important than learning content.

**WillR:** Therefore, learning has more to do with building networks of sources and content than on memorizing and regurgitating knowledge.

**WillR:** And the whole notion of learning networks is the key idea to me.

**WillR:** It stems from Connectivism...

**WillR:** A "new" theory of learning from George Siemens.

**WillR:** A new way of doing professional development.

**WillR:** As Dewey says, learning is a social experience.

**WillR:** And we build these learning networks through the transparent creation of content in a social way.

**WillR:** We “read” what others create and we “write” and contribute our own knowledge to the network. That's a powerful learning flow now.

**WillR:** And it's the way my own learning has been transformed.

**WillR:** We contribute this knowledge through the use of social tools that have been borne out of the Read/Write Web.

**WillR:** Blogs, which make it easy to create an easily updateable Website.

**WillR:** (Go, Blogs! Go!)

**WillR:** Over 50 million of them online now.

**WillR:** A new one every second!

**WillR:** Wikis which make collaboration online easy.

**WillR:** See <http://en.wikipedia.org> for an example.

**WillR:** Wikipedia is now more widely read than the New York Times.

**WillR:** Social bookmarking tools, which make it easy to share knowledge and information with other people by connecting them with the things we read.

**WillR:** See <http://del.icio.us> or <http://www.furl.net>.

**WillR:** We can read what other people are reading and learn from that as well.

**WillR:** Or RSS, which stands for Real Simple Syndication, a tool that allows us to read more widely and more completely by bringing content to us.

**WillR:** See <http://www.bloglines.com> for an idea of how RSS works.

**WillR:** Or Podcasts, which allow us to consume information when it is convenient.

**WillR:** I'm guessing some of you use these tools now for powerful professional development

**WillR:** By using these tools and others, we can create our own online curriculum and learn by following our passions.

**WillR:** And passion is what this is all about.

**WillR:** We can be passionate learners using these tools.

**WillR:** By connecting to people who share our passions and can help point our way.

**WillR:** In my own practice, I have a network of about 80 educators who teach me every day.

**WillR:** Who I consider to be trusted collaborators and mentors.

**WillR:** And we can become teachers ourselves in the way that we share back our learning.

**WillR:** Online learning using social tools can be a transformative, powerful experience, and can make us truly lifelong learners.

**ElizabetLG:** What ages are we talking about

**WillR:** And can connect us to all sorts of self directed professional development opportunities.

**WillR:** Elizabeth, we can be talking about all ages...

**WillR:** but from a professional practice standpoint...

**WillR:** these tools have great potential.

**WillR:** Lots of teachers are using these tools in their classrooms as well.

**WillR:** For instance, Jeff Utecht is a teacher in Shanghai who writes a great blog.

**ElizabetLG:** I would like to be using this to motivate my teachers to use technology in their classrooms

**WillR:** Earlier this month, he wrote a great post in his blog:  
<http://jeff.scofer.com/thinkingstick/?p=108>

**ElizabetLG:** A great way to collaborate like you mentioned

**DoloresG:** I use a blog for my teachers and we blog on various educational issues. It's a beginning!

**WillR:** Here is what he wrote...

**WillR:** “This has been the best day of PD I could ever hope for. I was in control of my learning. I was able to click on links that were interesting and ignore the information that I felt didn’t apply to me. I read, commented, reflected, bookmarked, and just felt the excitement inside me grow as I found some great stuff.”

**WillR:** He writes extensively about his process using these tools.

**WillR:** Dolores, that is a great example of how these tools can begin to connect us.

**WillR:** Even if we teach in the same physical spaces.

**WillR:** Is there anyone else using the Read/Write Web to inform their own practice?

**PamGC:** Yes, I am. I'm taking an ed Tech masters - all online

**WillR:** Using blogs and the like?

**PamGC:** Yes,

**JudyTh:** I plan on using a wiki in my Global Learning Project

**CarolineB:** We use a course management system - and use the discussion board to read/write information, questions, suggestions.

**RogerMG:** Yes

**WillR:** Great!

**ElizabetLG:** not currently and I am also taking an online course

**WillR:** Does anyone use them in less structured, more personal ways?

**WillR:** What I mean is, do you have personal blogs?

**MidgeF:** I have a gravestone blog

**JaneOs:** We'll be using Tapped In for professional development in our new project and whatever other tools we find that help us collaborate

**KellyFan:** I am, I use it to keep a diary

**CarolineB:** But we are interested in using blogs, RSS - for the courses or for facilitator support

**HeatherBu** . o O ( I'm blogging your presentation right now )

**LornaB:** Sorry what's the read/write web?

**ElizabetLG:** Yes

**PamGC:** I don't, but my son has one to support his work with juvenile diabetes

**ChristieC:** I'm Christie. What an interesting way to make class like this!

**DoloresG:** Besides the blog for my teachers, I have a podcast that we started in May. There is a place to comment on the podcast.

**IreneHuGst13:** yes, I used blog to show my photos and traveling experiences, but this is the first time I learn to use it to share my teaching experiences and practices

**RogerMG:** <---more structured

**WillR:** That's great to hear.

**WillR:** What I want to make sure you all hear me say, however...

**MidgeF:** Don't be shy, will..plug your book

**WillR:** Is that when you use these tools for yourselves...

**CarolineB:** (PBS just started an education blog on their web site) sorry - go ahead.

**WillR:** ...for your own personal professional development work...

**WillR:** ...when you create your OWN networks of learners...

**WillR:** ...there is even more power in it.

**WillR:** More than in a classroom setting that uses them.

**WillR:** And I think that's what we have to teach our students to do...

**PamGC:** So, I do that by starting my own blog and addressing issues?

**WillR:** ...to create their own networks of learners.

**WillR:** Pam, I think you start a blog as a place to collect your own learning.

**JenniferHL:** That sounds fantastic

**PamGC:** Oh, I see

**WillR:** You read first, and bring that reading into your own space to reflect on it, to capture it.

**ChangLi:** It's not easy to keep a blog

**WillR:** Blogs can be archives of learning.

**PamGC:** That sounds really good

**ChangP:** I don't have the experience to create a blog. What should I know?

**WillR:** It's a type of learning that we not only must embrace but must model and teach to our students as well.

**ElizabetLG:** they are a great way to collaborate

**KellyFan:** How often should we update a blog?

**ChangLi:** People have to check their blogs every day once they have one

**WillR:** Chang, you can start blogging in five minutes at [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

**WillR:** Kelly, as often as you like.

**ChangP:** Thanks

**WillR:** There are no requirements here other than to try to capture what you learn and share it back to the community with your own understanding of it.

**WillR:** If you'd like more information, check out my book on the Read/Write Web at <http://www.weblogg-ed.com/book>. (Shameless plug...)

**ChangLi:** I have one blog actually

**ElizabetLG:** suggestions for say 5th graders to use blogs

**MidgeF:** Finally, a plug

**BJ** applauds for Will.

**WillR:** 5th graders can use blogs to connect with other 5th graders from around the world.

**WillR:** Or from around the block.

**ElizabetLG:** thanks

**WillR:** But the idea is to make the learning transparent...to give audience to it...and to give them an opportunity to teach.

**ChangLi:** I have a blog for fifth graders

**ElizabetLG:** what's the address Chang

**ChristieC:** What's included in your blog?

**WillR:** Any other questions or comments before Midge takes over?

**ChangLi:** may I ? Will?

**WillR:** Sure

**JeffCoop:** Will... many districts ban blogs for a variety of reasons, basically of control/ads/concern for content. How would you convince an administrator to unlock?

**BJ:** Thanks, Will! We sure appreciate you taking time from your busy schedule to be a keynote for the Tapped In festival today!

**WillR:** Jeff...e-mail me. [weblogged@gmail.com](mailto:weblogged@gmail.com) that answer would take too long!

**MidgeF:** Let Will address this important issue.

**JudyTh:** what's the difference between a blog and wiki?

**JudyTh:** which do you recommend?

**WillR:** Depends on the work, Judy.

**WillR:** Ok, thanks BJ and everyone for the chance to share.

**WillR:** Have a great festival!

**JaneOs:** Will the links Will provided today be posted somewhere?

**MidgeF** claps for Will

**WillR:** And I'll turn it over to Midge.

**JaneOs:** claps loudly

**KellyFan:** claps

**BJ:** Our next keynote speaker is Midge Frazel. She also has lots of exciting information to share.

**MidgeF:** Thanks Will

**DoloresG:** Thanks, Will

**ChangP:** Thanks

**JudyTh:** thanks Will

**JaneOs:** claps for Midge too

**MidgeF:** Hi, I'm Midge Frazel, author, consultant and online student. I live in Bridgewater, MA...

**MidgeF:** My Web site is: <http://MidgeFrazel.net>

**WexGst12** cheers for the next keynote speaker

**RogerMG:** Thank you Will.

**BJ:** all links will be in your transcript that you will receive about 10 minutes after you log out

**MidgeF:** I'm sure you are mesmerized by Will's Web 2.0 (Read/Write Web) collaborative ideas. These are definitely a part of today's online life. I was reading Will's book when I found out we were to be co-keynotes

**MidgeF:** I welcome you to my half hour. If you want a copy of what I am speaking about, I'd be glad to share it with you...

**MidgeF:** eSchool News recently said that there are three steps to bring new technologies into the classroom for integration...

**MidgeF:** 1. Educators themselves must learn the technologies...

**MidgeF:** Not an easy task

**MidgeF:** 2. Technology must be seamlessly integrated into the curriculum considering the subject matter in place...

**MidgeF:** and 3. Then, this technology infused plan must be brought into the classroom....

**MidgeF:** It would be nice if things were this easy

**MidgeF:** Teachers are struggling with learning the technology (as it changes daily) and with how to make it work with their standards based lessons. Professional development must change and be available when the teacher needs it.

**MidgeF:** Are you tired?

**MidgeF:** Enter the world of online learning...

**MidgeF:** It's a great help for tired teachers

**MidgeF:** I believe so strongly in distance education that I have begun a bathrobe collection! After many years of teaching teachers how to infuse their curriculum with technology in a face to face environment, I decided to pursue my Master's degree.

**MidgeF:** How was I going to manage designing, developing and delivering courses to teachers, write books and articles, maintain my own Web site and continue to learn new technologies and get an advanced degree? Obviously, I wasn't because the courses I

needed to take at a local college were on the same late afternoon time schedule as my teaching.

**MidgeF:** If I could give teachers one thing...it would be more time...

**ElizabetLG:** yes

**MidgeF:** I must find an online program. It was the only solution. Hence, the need for many bathrobes!

**HuiWenL:** that's true

**MidgeF:** It took me a while to get up the courage to do this.

**MidgeF:** I applied and was accepted at Lesley University. Lesley is one of a select few universities that offers the program I was looking for (but many colleges and places like Tapped In do offer selected classes online for professional development).

**BJ** cheers for the courageous Midge!

**MidgeF:** It was a big decision.

**MidgeF:** Today's teachers are tired and their age doesn't seem to matter. All of them want to leave their schools and go home, not to rush off to a course at a college that is given within the college time frame.

**WexGst12** agrees

**MidgeF:** I see a lot of you are taking classes online or teach online

**MidgeF:** It cuts out the commute and gives you more time

**MidgeF:** But... there needs to be a change in attitude

**MidgeF:** To be a successful online student means changing your mind about learning. Instead of sitting passively in a classroom, you must become a time management master. It is all about self.

**MidgeF:** Be self-directed, self-motivated, and self disciplined. Even the best of us may not be able to wear a bathrobe with this attitude.

**BJ** agrees enthusiastically

**MidgeF:** I am an only child so I am a self-directed learner

**WexGst12** smiles

**MidgeF:** Studies show that teachers are taking online courses not because of their learning style but because of convenience. Everyone is trying to balance work and life as if it was some giant see-saw.

**MidgeF:** I hope you are nodding in agreement!

**JaneOs:** absolutely

**BJ** nods

**ElizabetLG::** agreed

**CynthiaLai:** Nod

**ChangP:** yes

**JenniferHL:** agree

**KellyFan:** yes

**PamGC:** Absolutely

**ChangLi:** agree

**MidgeF:** Good...you are still out there..

**MidgeF:** To be ready for online learning, Dr. Maureen Yoder gives several ideas gathered from comments and suggestions from online learners and their instructors. She graciously has allowed me to share them with you.

**MidgeF:** 1. Be prepared to be online, a lot.

**MidgeF:** This means at least twice a day; checking your email plus on online course management system both. You might have to have access if you go on vacation. That means taking a laptop with you. Having a DSL connection or broadband is pretty common these days but many of us don't have that. Some teachers try to do their work using the school's connection but that is not always a good solution.

**MidgeF:** Remember the hours you spend online plus doing the assignments equals the SAME number of hours you would spend in a face-to face class. Think about that (but you get to wear your bathrobe).

**BJ** . o O ( firewalls are a major problem )

**MidgeF:** Yes, you should try connecting before signing up.

**JudyTh:** maybe more hours

**MidgeF:** 2. Anticipate technology needs.

**JudyTh:** lol

**MidgeF:** Have a good working computer you are not sharing with others. Back up your work frequently. Make friends with a tech-savvy person. You may have to budget in software purchases and a hardware upgrade.

**MidgeF:** 3. Write, and write well

**MidgeF:** Will used to be an English teacher

**MidgeF:** Graduate work requires well written documents. The slang that passes for everyday writing in email, text and phone are not acceptable. Think before you even post to a discussion board. Spell check is your best pal.

**MidgeF:** if u rite like this online courses are not 4 u

**BJ** puts in a plug for the Tapped In discussion WriteTalk

**MidgeF:** 4. Be a good citizen in the virtual community.

**MidgeF:** Make friends with your fellow students and be respectful of their work. There is much collaborative work. (See rule #1) Your fellow students may not be as vigilant. One woman, who is usually a great student, was afraid to tell her group members she was on vacation out of the country and missed a whole assignment. This can happen. Contact the instructor if you have problems...right away. Most instructors give their phone number. Write it down or print it out.

**MidgeF:** 5. Say what's on your mind

**MidgeF:** Get used to asking questions. Remember a downside of the virtual community is that you can't see each other communicating. Maintain a high level of interaction with fellow students and instructor. Help other students if they have a problem.

**MidgeF:** 6. Define your time and space and discipline yourself to protect it.

**MidgeF:** My family is used to seeing my back while I use the computer but I have trained them well. This is harder for some families and friends. You may have to remind them that you are working. Set a time for working daily so you don't get behind. Each class had deadlines for assignments that are different. You can't do all your work on the weekend.

**MidgeF:** 7. Don't overlook non-technological help.

**MidgeF:** If you are lucky, there is a library associated with your online course or at least a suggested location for a list of online documents or Web sites. Use the library in your hometown or city frequently. Librarians are wonderful people. You will need them.

**MidgeF:** They would rather wear bathrobes too.

**MidgeF:** 8. Enjoy the learning process

**MidgeF:** At first on-line learning is a bit daunting. But, keep your goals in mind and make the class relevant to your work. Ask people at your school for advice and assistance. You might be surprised at who knows what!

**MidgeF:** You will need help. I needed support and help and a place to rant and rave

**MidgeF:** While you are in an on-line class, be watchful of the ways the instructor presents the material, interacts with the class and provides feedback about assignments. Distance learning is moving INTO the k-12 education market. You may find out that you need some of these skills everyday with your students.

**MidgeF:** I asked my fellow on-line students what they liked about their virtual learning and what they disliked. This is what they said:

**MidgeF:** I like the freedom of being at home. I can eat my evening meal and put my kids to bed and then do my work. I sometimes get up early and do my work and then get my family ready and go to school.

**MidgeF:** I don't like the differences between the college vacations and our k-12 school vacation weeks.

**MidgeF:** This is a higher ed shortcoming

**MidgeF:** I am impressed with how fast I got help when I asked for it. Feedback was timely and helpful.

**MidgeF:** Group projects are hard. I am not used to waiting for others to do their work. At school we define and control our teaming. In the online world this is hard.

**MidgeF:** I sometimes feel that I don't know as much as the other students about technology. I find it hard to learn this without a hands-on lesson but there are no more of these being offered at any of the colleges. Everything is on-line!

**MidgeF:** I have a few minutes left...

**MidgeF:** This is a lot to read, I know..

**MidgeF:** Questions?

**LornaB:** Do you think online learning is suitable for everyone?

**MidgeF:** No...

**KellyFan:** How many hours do you spend on computer in a day?

**LornaB:** Can you say more?

**MidgeF:** Learning certain kinds of technology requires a hands-on lesson

**JenniferHL:** You typed so fast that it's hard for me to follow

**IreneHuGst13:** Yes, it is common for the people in the States to take online courses? Is this a really popular trend?

**JaneOs:** Online threaded discussions - any suggestions for designing effective ones?

**MidgeF:** I would say the average graduate course is about one hour work plus collaborating a day

**DoloresG:** I found that in a regular class I learned what the teacher presented, but I had another "education" because of the interaction/conversations with others in the class. Doesn't online learning lose some of that?

**LornaB:** The attrition rate for online learning is high. How can it be minimized?

**MidgeF:** You can scroll back and read what I said.

**MidgeF:** Online learning can be collaborative with chat and now with Skype.

**CarolineB:** In an online discussion board you receive as much - if not more - interaction and conversation. and because people have time to think of what to say - the discussions are more rich in content

**BJ . o O** ( for your certificate you must go to the Sign in Form under Featured Items above the chat window )

**MidgeF:** I don't feel isolated at all. But, many of my classes are about educational technology

**JudyTh:** also everyone gets to join in the discussion, no idea is lost

**MidgeF:** That's also a reason for blogging

**CarolineB:** True - no idea is lost. and references remain so that we can go back and catch what was missed.

**MidgeF:** That will be a part of this future in online classes and why I wanted Will to speak first

**ChangLi:** once we forget , we can check teacher's said by scrolling back

**MidgeF:** Online threaded discussions can be hard to follow. Make sure you are posting to the right thread.

**MidgeF:** They tell me that my program is almost 100% retentive.

**BJ:** if you are a member of Tapped in you will receive a transcript of this discussion about 10 minutes after you log out

**MidgeF:** I can make what I said available by email

**JenniferHL:** Thanks

**MidgeF:** I have met and worked with people all over the world.

**DoloresG:** Thanks, Midge, you have given me a lot to think about.

**PamGC:** Thanks, Midge. You had a lot of interesting information

**LoraAB:** thank you for the valuable information

**BJ** applauds Midge's sage advice!

**MidgeF:** That's great. Dr. Yoder is pleased to have me share her structured ideas

**ChangP:** Thanks

**JaneOs:** applauds

**CynthiaLai:** Your email address?

**MidgeF:** <http://MidgeFrazel.net>

**MidgeF:** [MidgeF@MidgeFrazel.net](mailto:MidgeF@MidgeFrazel.net)

**MidgeF:** I have two blogs.

**LornaB:** A great keynote thanks!

**WexGst12:** Thanks for the leading the discussion, Will, Midge

**MidgeF:** You're welcome. I'm glad so many came. Did I answer all the questions?

**JenniferHL:** What you have said inspires me a lot!

**KeikoSc** claps loudly

**JenniferHL:** Thanks a lot

**MidgeF:** Wow, that's cool.

**ChangP:** Thanks

**JudyTh:** what you said applies totally to my online education, thanks

**JenniferRo** applauds

**ChangLi:** Me, too.

**MidgeF:** I think it is great and that's where it is going for us teachers.

**MidgeF:** I see Will is still here..any last words, Will?

**ChangLi:** I have my students do a project based learning through the discussion on line!

**SHuaC:** Thanks a lot! Quite inspiring!

**MidgeF:** By the way, I bought Will's book and Elizabeth Castro's book on Blogger

**CarolineB:** Thank you Midge! Great discussions. I work with professional development through online classes with PBS TeacherLine - there are a ton of resources there - and your web site is amazing!

**MidgeF:** I am job hunting..I want to teach online

**JaneOs:** Caroline - thanks for the PBS TeacherLine info

**ChangLi:** Thank you all!

**HeatherBu:** Thank you Midge, Will. This has been a wonderful keynote.

**MidgeF** bows and is grateful for those who listened.

**SusanR** gives a warm round of applause for Midge and Will

**MidgeF:** thanks Susan

**IreneHuGst13:** Thank you so much!