

## Education Week: Dominican leading the way in Ed Tech

A leading education publication has recognized Dominican University of California's School of Education and Counseling Psychology as one of five schools nationwide leading the way in educational technology.

In its June 9 edition, [Education Week](#) noted that Dominican's Department of Education is one of a handful in the United States to "have taken deliberate steps in recent years to better integrate technology into their curricula and cultures."

The publication also praised the work at Saint Leo University School of Education & Social Services; University of Michigan School of Education; Clemson University Eugene T. Moore School of Education; and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Last year, the Department introduced its innovative [1-to-1 iPad program](#). Twenty five teaching credential candidates entering Dominican's [Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program](#) received iPads and custom-designed course instruction to teach them how to use classroom technologies effectively. "The coursework was designed to equip, educate, and support teaching credential candidates to meet the level of technological expertise required in today's K-12 classrooms," said Dr. Elizabeth Truesdell, chair of [Dominican's Department of Education](#).

"The goal is to help teaching credential candidates select and adapt instructional tools to address and engage students' varying learning styles and abilities," Truesdell said. "Today's students live in a digital world, and teachers must recognize that and be prepared to use technology effectively."

A key focus of the teacher preparation program was how to use iPads to enhance learning literacy. The credential candidates learned to use iPads for lesson planning, flipped classroom instruction, and teacher/student communication. Another goal was to reduce a teacher's technology learning curve.

Truesdell and colleague Dr. Rebecca Birch, technology facilitator, designed the course instruction, including an iBook that was loaded onto the iPad. Dominican worked with Apple, which identified iTunes U courses that Dominican faculty could access in order to create and manage their course.

In preparation for the iPad initiative, 10 education faculty members from [Dominican's School of Education and Counseling Psychology](#) spent a semester learning how to integrate iPad technology into their own course offerings, including two pedagogy courses, two seminars, and the "Using Technology in the Classroom" course.

"Dominican is ahead of the national curve when it comes to its approach with technology," Truesdell said.

"What makes us unique now is that we are modeling this in our classroom so our students are seeing it. Additionally, students are required to utilize new technologies in their Dominican lessons and assignments."

Dominican plans to expand the initiative to the [Multiple Subject](#) and [Education Specialist](#) programs next year.

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