New Resource Highlights the Impact of Digital Learning on Minoritized and Poverty-Affected Students

Insights from 12 dedicated instructors integrating digital learning tools

Boulder, CO (August 27, 2024) – Every Learner Everywhere has published a new resource titled The Impact of Digital Learning on Minoritized and Poverty-Affected Students: 12 Instructors' Stories, offering a deep dive into how digital learning tools are transforming education for some of the most vulnerable student populations. This resource is a follow-up to Every Learner's online resource, The Impact of Digital Learning on Minoritized and Poverty-Affected College Students: A Literature Review, examining the effectiveness of digital learning in decreasing equity gaps and the impact of digital learning on specific student populations, particularly those who identify as Black, Latino, and Indigenous as well as first-generation students and those affected by poverty. The companion resource offers a compendium of research into the impact of learning practices on marginalized groups.

This new resource gathers experiences from 12 dedicated instructors across various institutions who have integrated digital learning tools into their curricula to address the unique challenges faced by minoritized and poverty-affected students. The findings illuminate both the successes and the ongoing challenges in bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to education.

Key highlights include:

- **Improved Accessibility**: The use of digital tools has significantly improved access to education for students who face economic and social barriers, allowing them to participate more fully in academic life.
- **Personalized Learning**: Digital platforms have enabled instructors to tailor educational experiences to meet the diverse needs of their students, leading to more personalized and effective learning outcomes.
- **Increased Engagement**: Students who might otherwise struggle in traditional classroom settings have shown increased engagement and participation when digital tools are used to create interactive and flexible learning environments.
- **Challenges Remain**: Despite these successes, the report also highlights the persistent challenges, including the need for better infrastructure, ongoing professional development for instructors, and more robust support systems to ensure all students can benefit equally from digital learning.

The resource provides valuable insights into instructors' reasons for choosing specific digital tools, implementation challenges and successes, data on student retention, pass rates, and engagement, and impacts on student confidence and connection, particularly for minoritized populations.

"Digital learning is not just a trend; it is a powerful tool that, when used thoughtfully, can break down barriers and open doors for students who have historically been marginalized," said Patricia O'Sullivan, Manager of Content Development and Special Projects and co-author of the resource. "This report showcases the incredible potential of digital learning to make education more inclusive and accessible, while also reminding us of the work that still needs to be done."

The full resource, *The Impact of Digital Learning on Minoritized and Poverty-Affected Students: 12 Instructors' Stories*, is available for download at https://www.everylearnereverywhere.org/resources/the-impact-of-digital-learning-on-minoritized-and-poverty-affected-college-students-case-studies.

To download the free resource or learn more about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit everylearnereverywhere.org. To contact Every Learner Everywhere, email everylearner@wiche.edu, or call (303) 541-0208. Follow Every Learner on LinkedIn at Every Learner Everywhere.

Every Learner Everywhere is a network of partner organizations with expertise in evaluating, implementing, scaling, and measuring the efficacy of education technologies, curriculum and course design strategies, teaching practices, and support services that personalize instruction for students in blended and online learning environments. Our mission is to help institutions use new technology to innovate teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of improving learning outcomes for Black, Latino, and Indigenous students, poverty-affected students, and first-generation students. Our collaborative work aims to advance equity in higher education centered on the transformation of postsecondary teaching and learning. We build capacity in colleges and universities to improve student outcomes with digital learning through direct technical assistance, timely resources and toolkits, and ongoing analysis of institutional practices and market trends. WCET (the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies) and WICHE (the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) serve as the intermediary organization for the Every Learner Everywhere Network. For more information about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit everylearnereverywhere.org.