Ben Kahn:	Welcome to the UP Tech Talk podcast coming to you from the Academic Multimedia studio on the University of Portland campus, produced by Academic Technology Services.
	Hello and welcome to the UP Tech Talk podcast. This is Ben Kahn. I'm the Academic Technology Specialist and Trainer at the University of Portland. Today, I'm joined by my co-host, Maria Erb, our Instructional Designer.
Maria Erb:	Hey, Ben.
Ben Kahn:	Hey, Maria. Today, we are very happy to welcome into the studio with us Tisha Morrell, who is a professor in our School of Education here at UP as well as the Director of our STEM Center. Tisha, thanks for joining us.
Tisha Morrell:	Yes, welcome.
Ben Kahn:	Maria, you worked with Tisha recently on a project to provide STEM professional development for middle school teachers. We didn't just do this as a face-to-face workshop. This was actually brought into the online world.
Maria Erb:	That's right. This is the first time that we've done this at the University. That's what makes it so exciting. Even better than that was that it was a successful venture. I think that our listeners are going to be really interested to hear about how we set this up and how our online participants were able to participate with us, and also, how this is going to work in the campus in the future because it's a really great tool.
Ben Kahn:	Yes. This is a question that we get all the time. Can I bring someone remotely into my classroom, can I connect with people over Skype, etc. It is a really good step towards a proof of concept for that on campus.
Maria Erb:	It sure is. What I really love about it was that we had all these content providers here at the University. We're able to deliver really great in-class lectures but also include our online participants in doing that and none of them had really done that before. By the end of the session, they all felt very comfortable doing that. At least that's what they told me. I feel really great that we could bring people in that haven't done this before but get them up and running really quickly and to the point where they feel ready to go do this again.
Ben Kahn:	Putting that technology aside for a minute, Tisha, can you tell us what the professional development was about in the first place? What were your goals with it?
Tisha Morrell:	Sure. The STEM center was hoping to provide some professional development for the teachers not only in the Portland area but any teacher that was interested in the state. We found this great online curriculum that really did a nice job of integrating all the areas of STEM. We thought, "Wow! This is perfect for us to use

as our jumping off point to start providing our first professional development." We were trying to get the teachers not only comfortable with the curriculum which was an online interactive curriculum for their students but also giving them the content information that they needed in the background, they needed to feel comfortable with this material and in doing it with their students.

The greatest thing about you guys helping out with this was we were able to expand it not only to the teachers in Portland but anybody that was interested. We had teachers that would not have been able to drive to Portland everyday for the workshop to join us. That was just fabulous.

Maria Erb: Especially the woman in Turkey. She really would have had a hard time getting here.

Tisha Morrell: It's amazing the reach of the STEM center.

Maria Erb: That's right, when you think about it.

Ben Kahn: It's just amazing that putting it online just amplifies the impact so many times over. That's great. The material that we're using, was that free to use? Was that open source? Was there some licensing involved?

Tisha Morrell: It's free. All you have to do is ask for it. It's from Everfi for people that are interested in it. They are an online tech company and they get sponsors. The one that we were using was sponsored by the National Hockey League and the National Hockey League Players Association. They pay for all of the software, they pay for the technology, and any teacher who wants it just has to write to them and say, "I want to use this".

Maria Erb: Can you say a little bit about the software that we saw in the workshop just so our listeners will have an idea of what the middle school teachers were going to work with?

Tisha Morrell: It was an interactive program that focused on hockey. The kids learned about Physics, they learned about Biology, they learned about Engineering design and Mathematics, and it all focused on hockey. We looked at designing the hockey rink, we looked at how to design hockey sticks, how do we shoot, what's the best training to put the players through. Everything that dealt with the STEM issues help them focus on hockey in a way to make it more relevant for the students who are participating. It had little questions periodically to help keep the students on track and then the teachers get that feedback as well so they were able to see where their students are, what questions they're getting wrong and how things are going.

Maria Erb: Even though this was aimed at middle school students which is, 6th to 8th grade, right? I thought that the concepts were pretty high level especially when we heard from Stephanie in the Mathematics and Tamara in Physics. I was like, "This is pretty high level stuff."

Tisha Morrell: Yeah. The great thing about this was it can actually go down to 3rd grade is how they market it. I think 3rd, maybe 5th but you can take it down lower or you can ramp it up. The speakers that we had were fabulous because we had Jackie Van Hoomissen and Stephanie Salamone and Tamara Moore and Paige Hufford. We had somebody from all of the different STEM disciplines there doing some background information for the teachers. I think the teachers, from what they said, they felt very comfortable with the material. They learned more than they needed to for their students which is always our hope. The teachers did a good job. Our teachers, our instructors did a good job of extending and showing them where they can go further with this in this material. The teachers themselves then had time to talk with each other and with us and talk about how they could use it and how they could do other integrated areas with it as well.

Ben Kahn: That's great. The software itself, there's interactive elements for the students as they go through their, getting... they're answering questions, they're interacting with maybe graphs or completing problems, things like that.

Tisha Morrell: More than that. They're actually to move the players. They're able to draw lines on the [inaudible 00:06:35]. It's a very engaging program.

Ben Kahn: Very cool. I guess that data for them is collected and that's available for the teachers to review and track progress and things.

Tisha Morrell: Correct.

Ben Kahn: That's awesome.

Maria Erb: Yeah, pretty advanced really.

Ben Kahn: In terms of the professional development that you are delivering and then when you decided you wanted to maybe put that online, how did that seed get planted? How did that spark happened for you?

Tisha Morrell: Probably because Maria have been working with Bob. Sam Williams kept saying, "You should be doing something". We thought, "You know, we're offering this PD. This would be the perfect time to take advantage of what you guys have and see whether or not we can pull it off." It's low... what I want to say? Low threat?

Maria Erb: Low stakes.

Tisha Morrell: Yeah low stakes. It was like, if it worked great and if it didn't work, it wasn't going to work and we'd say, "Oops! Sorry it didn't work." It worked great. It was really fabulous. It was so good to have the opportunity to involve teachers from all across the state to come in. We might have had a woman from Turkey but she gave up.

Ben Kahn: That's a pretty significant time zone difference there.

Maria Erb:	Yeah.
Tisha Morrell:	It was great. It was really nice to have these women... they were all women who logged in. They come in, they came everyday, they were there on time they stayed through the whole thing. The only shortcomings, if I can talk about shortcomings.
Maria Erb:	Please do.
Tisha Morrell:	We couldn't have done it without Maria being there because she was able to focus the camera on the speaker, they could all see the PowerPoint that was on the screen, they could watch whoever was doing the presentation, watch the demos, zoom onto the board to see what they were writing. The hard thing for the rest of us was that Maria was the only one who could see and interact with those people. The rest of us were like, we had to keep reminding ourselves, "Oh! There are more people." Maria would periodically pose a question to them or when we were doing brainstorming, I'd go, "Those of you that are not here in the room, you get first [inaudible 00:08:40].
Maria Erb:	That's right.
Tisha Morrell:	To try to get them involved. That was the only drawback, was that there was that break between who is in front of us and who is not in front of us. I contacted all of them every night. I'd send them a note and go, "How is it going? Is everything going good? Can we do anything to make this better for you?" They are all like, "No, this is perfect. This is great. Just what we needed."
Maria Erb:	I was really impressed with our online participants. Like you said, they stayed engaged the whole time. They were really responsive to me when I would query them and see what was going on and they're like, "Great content, great presentation". I think that says a lot about both the content and our presenters that they were able to just carry themselves, create their presence so strongly that it was felt everywhere.
Ben Kahn:	What I was going to say, Tisha, I think you brought up a really great point. Something I've learned as we've done some of these things is that having someone in that facilitator role is so important for these kind of endeavors. As a presenter, you really can't split your attention between your presentation and class audience and the online audience which is too much to try to focus on. Really having someone in that facilitator role to help the online population in the engagement part, I think has been really crucial.
Tisha Morrell:	Right. But like you said and you brought up a really good point, it would have been nice for our face-to-face participants to have that sense that there were others out there and maybe even to interact with them a little bit more. That's the limitation of the software that we use, the Webex Software. We are exploring other options. I really hope that we move forward in that direction because that would be a really

great experience for everybody.

Maria Erb: Yes, I agree.

Ben Kahn: I think it's an extra layer of complexity for the people in the room but if they take that step, I think there's a lot of rewards that could definitely be seen.

Maria Erb: Yeah, and I think that that's going to be just a normal way that you go into a workshop. We're all used to having Facebook here and somebody sitting next to us and where you see interacting with all these people around us and not next to us. I think that's going to be the case for these workshops too.

Ben Kahn: Totally. Like when we go to conferences and things, I sometimes interact with people on Twitter that are there but I didn't get a chance to talk to them face-to-face. It's interesting, using technology to make the micro-local area.

Maria Erb: Hyper local. Yeah.

Ben Kahn: Hyper local area like more communicative.

Maria Erb: That's a really good point. I think that maybe when we move forward with another one of these having a Twitter backchannel so that everybody would be able to post to that and everybody would be able to see that. It's a good idea.

Tisha Morrell: And if we could have an extra monitor that just showed them so that at least we had a sense of their presence instead of you being, looking up your own computer and the rest of us not realizing sometimes.

Maria Erb: Again, that was both a limitation of the software but also with our participants in the way that they engaged with the software. We had the two Deedee and her co-worker with the camera on them. We were able to see them the whole time but it was Victoria that was calling in from her cellphone. We couldn't have seen her anyway. Then we have [inaudible 00:11:51], she didn't have the camera on. We had all varieties.

Tisha Morrell: We did. It would have been nice if we could have... they all didn't put their camera on but if they could have, that would have been nice so that we could get a better sense of who is really there.

Maria Erb: That's right, to see them. The other thing that you brought up was it would have been nice to hear them speak more frequently. At the beginning of the workshop, you were able to greet them and they were able to say who they were and greet the class. But then we had to mute them afterwards because we had the feedback issues. That would be great if-

Tisha Morrell: We also had their dogs barking.

Maria Erb:	We had the toddlers. We had that kind [crosstalk 00:12:33]. That would have been great too, to have that audio where they could have just spoken their question or gave their feedback of whatever. That would have been great too.
Tisha Morrell:	Yeah, that would have. I think a key that made it successful is what you said. I think the presenters were just so present and so engaging that it wasn't like, I mean, I've been to a number of, been to, I've listened in on a number of webinars and you could easily space it off and they didn't let you. They really were engaging.
Maria Erb:	Right. I think that's just brings it back to the strength of the teaching that we have here at the University. We got the most fabulous faculty, we just do. That was demonstrated again in that environment, that they can still eb strong teachers even in the online realm.
Ben Kahn:	That's why we're excited about then because when you add technology into something that's not so great, it's just something that's not so great in the internet.
Maria Erb:	Exactly.
Ben Kahn:	When you can find something amazing that's happening on the campus or wherever and broadcast that out to the world, that's what's really exciting.
Maria Erb:	And share it, yeah, I know.
Tisha Morrell:	That they were able to come up with activities that you didn't have to be right there in the room with them to do.
Maria Erb:	That's another good point that I think people would like to hear about. Like when Stephanie had that pi question that we gave everybody time to work on and we were able to see Deedee and her co-worker working on the camera and everybody was... that was a really great workshop design that you had was to say, "Okay, we're going to be pausing down for 10 or 15 minutes. We're all going to be working on these problems and then we'll come together again."
	While that was happening both face-to-face and online, I was able to query the online participants, do you have any questions, how are you doing, do you need more time, that thing, so that they felt again that they were being responded to and included.
Ben Kahn:	Great. Tisha, we heard some of your reflections and how the whole process went for you, is this something that you would do again?
Tisha Morrell:	We're planning on it. The teachers asked for it before they left and said, "Next summer? We'll be doing this again?"
Ben Kahn:	Same thing.

Tisha Morrell:	Everybody in the STEM center said, "Yeah, next summer". They're volunteering their time as well. They're amazing people.
Maria Erb:	Does the STEM center include Stephanie and Tamara and...they're all part of it.
Tisha Morrell:	Yeah. We have about 25 people across campus that are involved in the STEM center.
Maria Erb:	Fantastic. If you've already got something on the books for next summer-
Tisha Morrell:	We're working on things same thing on the the books, but we will have something on the book sfor August so plan on it.
Maria Erb:	Will it be with the same software? the Hockey software? Or would it be something else?
Tisha Morrell:	No, it would be something different. We're not sure what yet. Plenty of time. Yeah, it'll be something different. That way, we could get these people back teach them something new.
Ben Kahn:	Very exciting. I bet that you'll find that your audience grows a lot every year that you do it because I can play too.
Maria Erb:	Yeah, because we will be to start beating the drum now and really build that audience for the next workshop series.
Ben Kahn:	Great. Tisha, thanks for telling us about your projects that you did with Maria. Sounds like it turned out great and everyone's really pleased with it. Before we wrap up, we're going to do just a little section that we like to call, App Pick of the week. Maria, I do this where we just talk about mobile app or a program or something, some piece of technology that's impacting our lives this week. Maria, do you have one in mind? I know Tisha has a good one.
Maria Erb:	I do but let's hear from Tisha first.
Tisha Morrell:	This summer, I got addicted to Pokemon Go. My old sons who grew up with Pokemon had to show me how to use it. I thought, "I could probably use this in my class". We we did that first week was, I came up with two questions bout Poke stops and we all went out and walked around campus, 2 different poke stops and collected data and then to make this educational, of course. We looked at the next generation science standards in the common core state standards and we looked to see if we did this in our classroom.
	Could be legitimately say we were doing any kind of true education? It worked out great for data collection, data analysis for coming up with new hypotheses and new problems to solve. Yeah, it was really fun.

Maria Erb:	Wow.
Ben Kahn:	Have you caught them all is the question?
Tisha Morrell:	The problem was, I didn't want them catching anything because what you catch at poke stops depends on your level and I didn't want them leveling up as we walked around campus.
Maria Erb:	But how about your abilities in Pokemon Go? Are they increasing?
Tisha Morrell:	I'm still learning.
Ben Kahn:	Poke apprentice. Very good. Maria do you have a pick?
Maria Erb:	I just want to plug Instagram in a way. Of course I-
Ben Kahn:	Yeah. That reminds me, we need to take our Instagram-
Maria Erb:	We need to do something like that.
Ben Kahn:	With Tisha, we need to take our Instagram selfie before we let you leave.
Maria Erb:	That's right, we always do a selfie with our guests. Thanks Ben for reminding but we also need to do ours with [Keyster 00:17:48]. I usually oppose anything related to Facebook pretty strongly, but, I do want to plug Instagram because I really think it just fills a very important niche which is that really quick update, that visual quick piece of information. It doesn't overload you and doesn't send you off into a million different side streets and things. I think it's a really useful thing and I'm happy to be able to keep up with On the Bluff Studios with which we have a new channel with that and keep up with the University and just get these little brief updates. I think it's pretty useful.
Ben Kahn:	Fantastic. I'm going to pick Duolingo as my app pic of the week.
Maria Erb:	I think you've picked that in the past now.
Ben Kahn:	No, i haven't. You're the one that always picks downcasts all the time. I'm picking DuoLingo. I'm going to our Salisburg Center in about a week and a half from right now. Last week, I started my crash course in German and I'm learning how to say excuse me and I'm sorry and bread and water. It's amazing how adaptive it is to you and how it pushes you to keep the streak going and practice everyday. I think I'm going to have at least the fundamentals to where I cannot totally embarrass myself while I'm there so that would be my app pick of the week.
Maria Erb:	That's a good one. I really like Duolingo too.

Ben Kahn: Excellent. Guess we're about ready to wrap up with the UP Tech Talk podcast for this week. Tisha, is there anything that you'd like to plug or let people know, what you're working on or anything like that?

Tisha Morrell: The thing that I would plug is that we have to start using new people more because there's just so much that you can do for us. We just have to explore. You guys have been great with that to just come over and go, "What kinds of things can I do so I don't even have to know what I need?" You tell me what you can do for me. Yes, I will be working more with you as the semester progresses.

Maria Erb: Great. Thank you. We look forward to it.

Ben Kahn: Okay. Maria, anything to plug? Your Twitter? Anything? Instagram?

Maria Erb: Just keep listening to UP Tech Talk.

Ben Kahn: That's a good one. Okay. For me, you can follow me on twitter @acedemictech.pdx. The only other thing I'll plug is, I do a series of technology tips that come out on my blog. You can subscribe to that. If you go to lists.up.edu and click on UP Tech Talk. There will be two short Tech Tips perspective week.

                     That's all I got. Tisha, thanks again for joining us. Maria, thank you again. Until next time, this is Ben signing out.

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