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Ted Coleman TSSA Winter 2011

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TSSA One-Page REPORT

Name, Department, and Email address:

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Name and Date of conference attended:

Lilly West Conference; Pomona, CA; 11-12 March 2011

Teaching Skill(s) Studied:

Technology as a Tool for Teaching versus Mastery of Fundamental Teaching Skills

Impact on Current Teaching (How was this info applied)?

The conference was again very enjoyable and well organized. The primary emphasis, as usual, was on practical application of concepts being addressed in the various sessions. Observing presenters from many different disciplines in universities across the country helped me to discern more objectively how teaching (the delivery itself) can be successful or sometimes abysmal, whether or not sophisticated technological paraphernalia come into play. My own self-awareness has been enhanced as I “hold up the mirror” and focus on more effective teaching and learning in my own classroom.

While some so-called “educators” (along with their national and international institutional academic counterparts) appear intent on heaping layer upon layer of technology onto the teaching process, it seems even more apparent to me than ever that technology can be valuable as long as it is used to support what is fundamentally good teaching to begin with. The use of technology does not ensure, and in fact often detracts from, good teaching. I feel compelled to reiterate that all too often it (the technology) becomes “the tail wagging the dog,” i.e., the driving force behind curriculum and other educationally related decisions. Good teaching, in my mind, and as evidenced by the excellent, mediocre, and poor examples from the conference, remains a human-to human interaction dependent on innate talent, skill, and training. That stated, once more, the presentations and stimulating discussions were refreshing and rejuvenating. Thanks again for allowing me this opportunity.

Date Submitted:

24 March 2011