



KMDI at 13, Knowledge Media Design Institute Guest Lecture

Co-sponsors: Institute for Research on Learning Technologies, York University; Institute for Knowledge Innovation and Technology, UT.

Date: Thursday February 11th, 2010

Time: 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Place: Bahen Centre for IT, Room 1210, 40 St. George Street, University of Toronto St. George Campus

Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology

“Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology” by Allan Collins, Professor Emeritus, Learning Sciences, Northwestern University

All around us people are learning with the aid of new technologies: children are playing complex video games, workers are taking online courses to get an advanced degree, students are taking courses at commercial learning centers to prepare for tests, adults are consulting Wikipedia, etc. New technologies create learning opportunities that challenge traditional schools and colleges. These new learning niches enable people of all ages to pursue learning on their own terms. People around the world are taking their education out of school into homes, libraries, Internet cafes, and workplaces, where they can decide what they want to learn, when they want to learn, and how they want to learn.

The developments described above are changing how people think about education. This rethinking will take many years to fully penetrate our understanding of the world and the society around us. We are beginning to rethink the nature of learning, motivation, and what is important to learn. These changes demand a new kind of educational leadership and changing roles for government. New leaders will need to understand the affordances of the new technologies, and have a vision for education that will bring the new resources to everyone.



Allan Collins is Professor Emeritus of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University. He is a member of the National Academy of Education, and a fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, the Cognitive Science Society, the American Educational Research Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He served as a founding editor of the journal *Cognitive Science* and as first chair of the Cognitive Science Society. He has studied teaching and learning for over 30 years, and written extensively on related topics. He is best known in psychology for his work on how people answer questions, in artificial intelligence for his work on reasoning and intelligent tutoring systems, and in education for his work on situated learning, inquiry teaching, design research, and cognitive apprenticeship. From 1991 to 1994 he was Co-Director of the US Department of Education’s Center for Technology in Education.

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Webcast: The talk will be webcast live & an archive will be available. Instructions to view the webcast:

Requirements: All you need to participate is a fast internet connection (1mb/sec), a screen resolution of 1024x768 or higher and Flash Player v.9+

1) If you haven't registered an ePresence account, go to <http://epresence.tv/mediaContent/> and click "Join" at the top-right of the interface. Fill in the form and submit.

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For more information please feel free to visit our website at <http://www.kmdi.utoronto.ca>.