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### **The Promise of Online, Multimedia Case Studies in Colleges of Education**

Since their first emergence in schools of law, medicine, and business (Merseeth, 1990; Shulman, 1992), case studies have become increasingly prevalent in colleges of teacher preparation. This is due, in no small part, to the fact that “cases offer [us] a unique form of learning that supports both systematic learning and particular contexts as well as more generalized theory about teaching and learning” (Darling-Hammond, Grossman, Rust, Shulman, p.430, 2005). In short, cases provide pre- and in-service teachers with “slices of life” in the classroom – slices of life that they might not have immediate access to otherwise.

Given the ever present and increasing market of “fly by night” online institutions and the pressures that schools of education - and all institutes of higher education - face in competing with institutions that are completely online, it is imperative that faculty members begin to further explore and implement pedagogically sound forms of online learning; multimedia case study implementation through online or mixed-platform settings is one avenue of doing just this.

In the following presentation, participants will examine the background, rationales for, research supporting, methodology, and examples of pedagogically sound online learning through case-based infusion. They will have the opportunity to explore how students can work through a case using an online platform and explore the benefits of such an approach. Group discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of online learning using case-based study will follow the more formal presentation.