



CADAT / CDAA Joint Annual Conference April 19 – 20, 2024



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Course: *Ionizing Education & Methodolgy: Turning Negative to Positive*

Course Description:

A comprehensive exploration of alternative teaching methods designed to adapt and thrive in challenging circumstances. Faced with the unprecedented challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, educators were compelled to transform their traditional approaches and find innovative ways to engage students.

Throughout the curriculum, emphasis is placed on the concept of "ionizing" education, symbolizing the transformation of negative situations into positive learning experiences. The course delves into the strategies employed by Tooth Fairy Systems, particularly during the pandemic-induced shift to online education.

Recognizing that a mere transition to digital platforms did not guarantee optimal knowledge retention, the course addresses the observed decline in information assimilation. It seeks to bridge this gap by introducing and demonstrating effective teaching strategies that transcend age barriers, catering to both young and mature learners.

By the end of the course, participants will have gained valuable insights into navigating the challenges of modern education, transforming obstacles into opportunities for enhanced student learning and engagement. "Ionizing Education" stands as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of educators in ensuring a positive and impactful learning experience in the face of unforeseen circumstances.

Educational Objectives:

1. Adaptive Teaching Methods: Explore alternative teaching approaches that go beyond traditional classroom settings, considering the unique challenges posed by remote learning.
2. Connection Strategies: Learn how to establish and maintain meaningful connections with students in a virtual environment. The course provides practical examples and case studies showcasing successful engagement strategies.
3. Technology Integration: Understand the effective incorporation of technology tools and platforms to enhance the learning experience. The course



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demonstrates how to leverage online resources to create interactive and dynamic lessons.

4. Addressing Knowledge Retention: Analyze the factors contributing to the decline in knowledge retention during online learning and discover proactive measures to mitigate this issue.
5. Cross-Generational Teaching: Tailor teaching methodologies to cater to the diverse learning preferences of both younger and older students. The course explores techniques that resonate with different age groups.

Speaker Bio

Frank Vinculado is a seasoned dental professional with a rich and diverse career that spans over two decades. His journey began in 2004 at UCSF, where he initially worked pulling charts for the School of Dentistry. However, it was his innate fascination with x-rays that paved the way for a remarkable trajectory in dental radiology.

Frank's dedication and enthusiasm propelled him into the Radiology Department, where he not only earned his radiation safety certificate in 2005 but also discovered his passion for imaging education. His commitment to advancing the field led him to collaborate with the Radiology Instructor in guiding dental students through the intricacies of oral radiology. This commitment eventually saw Frank assume the roles of Oral Radiology Manager and Radiology Instructor.

During his tenure, Frank spearheaded the initiative to transition the School of Dentistry to digital imaging and centralized storage, showcasing his leadership and innovation. His involvement in shaping the curriculum for first and second-year dental students underscored his commitment to educational excellence, earning him the affectionate moniker, "X-Ray Frank."

In 2021, Frank took on a new challenge by joining Reveal Diagnostics, a local imaging and surgical guide lab. His prior consultation with the lab laid the foundation for instituting accredited radiology protocols and staff training modules. Frank's multifaceted skills also extended to designing implant surgical guides, showcasing his adaptability within the dental imaging landscape. Concurrently, he assumed the role of Technical Field Trainer for Straumann Group dental training offices, focusing on the latest advancements in imaging and 3D printing technology.

Presently, Frank serves as a Digital Solutions Specialist at Neodent, seamlessly blending his passion for dental imaging with a distinctive teaching style. In this role, he leverages technology to empower dental practices in delivering top-notch patient care.

Beyond his clinical roles, Frank, alongside his wife Brittney, acquired Tooth Fairy Systems (TFS) in 2017. His journey with TFS began during his pursuit of the Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) license in 2013, where he developed close ties with industry figures Cara Miyasaki and Eloise Reed. Transitioning into an instructor role at TFS, Frank's dedication to educating and empowering dental assistants continues to flourish, reflecting his enduring commitment to the growth of the dental profession.