



 **simSchool**

the simSchool Modules Project

*A collaborative effort transforming tomorrow's classrooms
by improving teacher effectiveness today*



“By incorporating meaningful instructional modules and deep analytics, we know we can help pre-service teachers better contextualize and target their own learning and improve their overall self-efficacy as current college students and future educational professionals.”

— **David Gibson Ed. D.**
simSchool Founder

What is simSchool

simSchool is a classroom simulation that supports the rapid accumulation of a teacher's experience in analyzing student differences, adapting instruction to individual learner needs, gathering data about the impacts of instruction, and seeing the results of their teaching.

simSchool is like a “flight simulator” for educators — a place where instructors can explore instructional strategies, examine classroom management techniques, and practice building relationships with students that will translate into increased learning. Using interactive features and game-like tools, pre-service teachers can explore two of the most important questions in effective instruction:

How do you learn to be a teacher?

How do you plan, think about, and see what students are like before they enter the classroom by reading records, understanding some about their personalities, their capabilities and their learning styles?

Results teachers experience are real, measureable, and include:

- improvement in general teaching skill
- improved confidence in using technology
- increased belief that the teacher has the skills and ability to make a difference in a child's life
- improvement in pre-service teachers' performance in teacher preparation courses and attitudes toward inclusion of special needs students
- significant positive impact on the mastery of deeper learning capacities that comprise the readiness to teach
- increased “staying power” on the path to the field of teaching acquired through rapid development of strong self-efficacy and resilience

In these ways and more, simSchool enables transformational experiences for teachers to help them become more effective leaders in their classrooms and learning communities.



Working with our global partners, we seek to create a community of Institutions of Higher Education, learning scientists, researchers, and designers.

Research & Results

While the students within the environment are virtual, the behaviors and learning tendencies represented are authentic. The underlying intelligence and algorithms powering simSchool draw upon decades of research and analysis.

The application has been investigated in meaningful ways in blended learning situations and has been shown to generate relevant benefits that are strongly connected to mastery of deeper learning outcomes such as self-efficacy, critical thinking, complex problem solving, and working collaboratively.

Learning analytics in simSchool follow the moment-to-moment decision-making actions of a player who is attempting to teach a dynamically changing class.



The Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant Program and simSchool Modules

The *simSchool Modules Project* was selected from a field of more than 600 pre-proposals and 50 finalists as a Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC) awardee in their inaugural grant program. The Project is sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) in collaboration with CurveShift (simSchool) and Pragmatic Solutions, Inc. (Leverage)

NGLC focuses on identifying and scaling technology-enabled approaches to improve college readiness and completion by addressing a continuum of interrelated issues spanning secondary and postsecondary education from grades 6 through college.

NGLC is led by EDUCAUSE in partnership with The League for Innovation in the Community College, the International Association of K-12 Online Learning, and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation helped design the Next Generation Learning Challenges, and fund the initiative.

Efforts will focus on deeper learning modules for learning to teach via simSchool. simSchool will be disseminated via an international network of colleges of education and be scaled to reach all future teachers in the U.S.

Partnership & Ways to Become Involved

simSchool has formed partnerships with 39 institutions from around the world (listed on back page) who will participate in the NGLC grant work.

partners can still be considered between now and early September. For more information or to express interest in participating in the simSchool Modules Project, please contact David Gibson, david.gibson@curveshift.com



As a community, we will enhance and grow the simSchool platform with content and resources that address the needs of pre-service and in-service teachers.





Strategic Team Members in the simSchool Modules Project

CurveShift LLC

Pragmatic Solutions, Inc.

Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)

Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SITE)

For more information, please contact David Gibson, david.gibson@curveshift.com

www.simschool.org

University of North Texas

Kean University

Marygrove College

FableVision



Institutional Partners in the simSchool Modules Project

Level 1 Partners

Agnes Scott College, GA

Auburn - Learning Resources Center, TX

Harish Chandra P.G. College, India

Institute of Education, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Kaanan International College Limited, Kenya

Mary Mossongo Memorial College of Education, Cameroon

National Institute of Education, Singapore, Singapore

North Carolina State University, NC

Sam Houston State University, TX

The Univ. of Wisconsin, WI

Université du Québec en Outaouais, Canada

University of Twente, Netherlands

Walailak University, Thailand

Level 2 Partners

Bharathidasan University, India

California University of Pennsylvania, PA

Curtin University, Australia

Emporia State University, KS

Metropolitan State College of Denver, CO

Miami University, OH

Norfolk State University, VA

Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania

Queens College-CUNY, NY

Salem State University, MA

Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

University of Tasmania, Tasmania

Level3 Partners

Alcorn State University, MS

Ecole Normale Supérieure, Mauritanie

European University Cyprus, Cyprus

Gazi University, Ankara

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, PA

Jackson State University, MS

James Madison University, VA

Sofia University, Bulgaria

Southern University, LA

State Univ. of New York, NY

Touro University, CA

University of South Australia, Australia

University of South Florida, FL

University of Southern Queensland, Australia

