

Towards an MEd with a Focus on Knowledge Building

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1. Issue/Problem

As Knowledge Building increasingly gains a global presence, the need to bring together and nurture members of an expanding network of researchers, educators, students, administrators, and policy-makers to collaboratively address collective goals across widely distributed hubs of innovation becomes an ever-more-important issue.

2. Major goals: What do you suggest we will collectively achieve/accomplish?

This session will explore the possibility of an accredited Master of Education (MEd) program with a focus on Knowledge Building as one component of the broader effort to address the challenge above. While a number of institutions offer courses in Knowledge Building and/or courses which embody knowledge-building technologies and pedagogies in practice and/or are engaged in research focused on Knowledge Building, none offer a graduate level program which integrates all three as the focus for an MEd.

The goal of this session will be to determine the viability of an MEd specifically focused on Knowledge Building and its place within the larger knowledge-building community. The intent would be to initiate an offering of such an MEd in 2020.

3. Presentation Overview

Building on an online MEd with a focus on 21st Century Teaching and Learning currently offered by the University of Prince Edward Island on Canada's east coast, the session will explore the possibilities for an MEd with a focus on Knowledge Building. The session will propose an initial model for such a program and solicit feedback from participants with respect to such issues as demand and feasibility, accreditation and oversight, program design, and course content and instructional design. Participants will be encouraged to share how their experiences in teaching and learning in Knowledge-building contexts might shape such an MEd program should it be implemented in 2020 as proposed and suggest considerations for moving forward. Ideally, the presentation would be scheduled for 60 minutes, with 20 minutes for a presentation, 30 minutes for small-group discussions, and 10 minutes for closure.