Lessons Learned from an ePortfolio Pilot

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The Course:
Workers and the Workplace: Issues, Policies, Research, and Programs, in the Social Enterprise Administration (SEA) method area

The Teaching & Learning Context:
Master’s level, second year, face-to-face course
12 students, no TA

Technology tool integrated:
Electronic portfolio by Seelio

Pilot Goals
(1) Student mastery of course content
(2) Support students’ career goals
(3) Inform future ePortfolio use at CU

Rationale
Challenge: support students in integrating their learning, connecting coursework to course objectives

Expected ePortfolio Impact
• Structured reflection
• Community
• Selection & tagging of work related to course objectives

Pilot Outcomes
• ePortfolio effective tool for students to reflect on learning
• Encouraged sense of community via peer feedback
• Strengthened student understanding of course content
• 141 Works/Reflections
• 454 Views on Works/Reflections
• 23 Likes on Works/Reflections
• 87 Comments on Works/Reflections
• Use of tool over time (graph by Seelio):

• Helped with skill articulation
• Students didn’t use visual elements of ePortfolio tool
• Students didn’t plan to use ePortfolios for job searches
• Students frustrated about learning a new tool and suggested that a widely known tool, e.g. LinkedIn, would be more useful professionally

Lessons learned:
• Helpful to have administrative buy-in
• Time-consuming grading because ePortfolio has no grading tools - not a Learning Management System
• Students needed more training & help with technology than anticipated
• Simplify ePortfolio use in a stand-alone course to be realistic re: time, workload, complexity, goals
• Program-wide implementation, not single course, would demo learning over time on many subjects
• Academic use more relevant for students than career use
• Excellent partnership with Center for Teaching & Learning

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