

## LEVERAGING OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES (OER) TO IMPROVE LEARNING OUTCOMES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR K-12 SYSTEMS

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**About the Speaker:** Professor Moustapha Diack, Doctoral Program in Science/Mathematics Education - Southern University, Baton Rouge (SUBR).



Professor Diack is affiliated with the doctoral program in Science/Mathematics Education (SMED), *Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. Professor Diack is Past-President (2006/2009) of the Louisiana Academy of Sciences and serve as co-editor of the MERLOT Faculty development editorial board. Diack is recipient of the 2008 MERLOT (Multimedia Education resources for Learning and Online Teaching) eLearning Innovation Award. He is co-founding Director of the *MERLOT Africa Network* and host of the *Pan-African Forum on Open Education Resources* and Open Access. The presenter is a *Diplo Foundation* Fellow for Internet Governance and Access to Knowledge Research and served as eLearning consultant for organizations such as the *Berkman Center*

*for Internet and Society*, Harvard Law School, the *Thurgood Marshall College Funds (TMCF)*, the *ICT4Africa* Conference and other major ICT/eLearning organizations such as *Atlantic-Computing*, a company dedicated to Fighting the Digital Divide in West Africa using *NComputing* desktop virtualization technology. Diack current research and interests are in the areas of learning design & Virtual Learning Environments (VLE) for Cyber learning.

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### **About the Keynote:**

This Keynote presentation will critically review the current developments in Open Education Resources (OER) Technology and OER Web Services for Teaching and Learning in K-20 education. Particular emphasis will be put on OER repositories and services for K-12 education to prepare students to function in a 21st century workforce and technology-based society. It advocates and elicits discussions on the effective use of Open Education Resources and Services to improve learning outcomes across the K-12. The Keynote elaborates on challenges and

opportunities to reduce the diverse social and cultural digital divides and accessibility to quality education through effective adoption of OER and the development of quality programs for distance education.

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### **Keynote Background:**

In recent years, the goals of increasing the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to create new learning resources and to manage existing learning resources to achieve educational goals and professional development needs, have received particular attention. One of the ways chosen to pursue these goals is to make open education resources (OER) accessible to educators and learners worldwide through searchable e-learning repositories and tailored search engines, and to promote resource sharing and best practices among professional educators. This has led in the last 5 years to a worldwide movement with very significant developments. As a result, and not surprisingly, OER technology has been identified and highlighted in recent reports (Horizon 2010 report - commissioned by the EDUCAUSE and NMC) among the Years-2010/2011 emerging technologies with considerable potential for impacting education and certainly improving access to education for all. OER and its movement was featured in October 2009 by the Information Society Division of UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector and the UNESCO OER Community in a milestone publication of an OER Toolkit (UNESCO OER Toolkit) designed for the global academic communities who are interested in finding and using OER in online courses design and online learning.

Although there is an emerging global OER infrastructures and culture, still clear evidence to support the positive impact of OER in teaching and learning has been mostly anecdotal without any qualitative or sound quantitative approaches for defining practices and measuring teaching and learning outcomes.

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### **Keynote References:**

Southern university in Baton Rouge: <http://www.subr.edu>

Thurgood Marshal College Fund: <http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.net/v1/>

Horizon Report 2010 - <http://wp.nmc.org/horizon2010/>

UNESCO 2009 Toolkit, [http://oerwiki.iiep-unesco.org/index.php?title=UNESCO\\_OER\\_Toolkit](http://oerwiki.iiep-unesco.org/index.php?title=UNESCO_OER_Toolkit)

In Support of Brazil (Diack): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYE7AqhtEwE>

MERLOT: <http://www.merlot.org>

MERLOT Africa: <http://man.merlot.org>

Atlantic Computing: <http://www.atlantic-computing.com>

NComputing: <http://www.ncomputing.com>

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