My Learning Experience in MIST

What I found unique about MIST is interdisciplinary knowledge a learner can acquire during the program. The program targets audience from different walks of life, a MIST student can meet peers who are school teachers, program trainers, government employees, businesses or media employees, technology experts, and fresh graduates. The program is structured that students can learn from each other, and trade experience, knowledge, and skills. The program is also tailored to meet the needs and interests of its wide audience. However, skills and application of instructional design are the end goal for all these diverse learners. The first two core classes I had in the first semester were about theories of instructional design and method of instructional design. Other core classes in the following semesters were about theories of learning, assessment, and design of the instruction. What I found is that the program actually provides you with both knowledge of instruction and technology of instruction. In addition to the classes I listed above, MIST program has many classes that tailored to technology application in classroom. First, there is technology workshop provides basic training on technological skills such as photo editing, creating websites, PowerPoint presentations, and advanced tools of Google search. Second, there are two elective multimedia classes on creating audio and videos using software such as adobe flash and window movie maker. Third, there is a core class on producing e-learning instructional module by using captivate software. Finally the graduate capstone project is class that aims at creating e-learning module and electronic portfolio. The final products of all these technology classes are based on skillful of application of some type of software. At the end, one can walk out with both, knowledge of instruction as well as skills to use the technology to deliver the instruction.

Since I joined MIST in the summer of 2009 and up to my graduation this fall of 2011, I walked out with handful useful learning experience from all the
classes I have taken whether instructional designs, instructional models, learning theories or a technology application. Some of these classes, such as learning theories, and instructional models added some knowledge and fresh ideas to what I learned before from other programs and training. While other classes provided me with new ideas I haven’t learned before. For instance, in the assessment class, I learned how to use statistics to analyze test result, and how to sample the population for study analysis. This is an example of field I have never learned before. Since then, I have been using this skill to analyze the test result of my students.

Other important skill one can learn from MIST is to acquire an instructional map for designing a lesson, instructional module or training program. For instance you begin by identifying the performance problem, studying the learners’ characteristics and their needs, laying out the objectives of instruction, designing the materials, identifying the means of implementation and delivery such as software, testing the usability of instruction, implementing the instruction, and assessing the effectiveness of instruction. All MIST classes are put together to complement one another. They provide knowledge, the skill and the method to apply such knowledge. The outcome of MIST learning skills is reflected in the final product of capstone graduation.