

## **Reflection to Support Evidence – Blog Post on Personal Learning Networks**

### **OLTD 502**

#### **Course Learning Outcome Satisfied:**

- Examine current research on emerging practices for blended and online learning environments.

For this piece of evidence, I chose my blog post on personal learning networks. In this post, I described my experiences with the Global Ed Conference (GEC), edWeb.net, and my general thoughts around personal learning networks.

Both the GEC and edWeb.net resources are excellent networks for finding out what is going on in the world of education and what the current research says about emerging practices. There are literally hundreds of sessions, live and recorded, available to be consumed by educators on a regular basis. Collaborators and presenters from around the world offer their experience and insight into a whole host of topics. This course introduced me to both resources and I am glad to know them now. As an added benefit to these resources, educators can complete short assessments to receive a digital certificate of completion which may be acceptable by their district for professional development. Aside from these, it is becoming common for educators to have online communities and networks such as Google+ and Twitter that they use to obtain and share information about education.

The current form of online learning is still in its infancy. It has gone through several stages of growth already but is continuing to change. As such, online and blended learning are emerging practices themselves even if they have been around for a while. In light of this, teachers who teach in one of these environments need to be continuously looking into the successes and failures of similar programs and see how they relate to their own. Using personal learning networks is a great way to share and learn from people near and far to help improve our practice and ultimately create the best learning environment for our students.