LRDC Conference Draws International Researchers

Lauren B. Resnick hosted a conference of more than 120 researchers and scholars from pre-eminent U.S. and international institutions at Pitt September 23-25, 2011. The “Socializing Intelligence Through Academic Talk and Dialogue” conference solidified evidence for the growing theory of dialogic interaction and its effect on disciplinary knowledge, transfer, academic language development, and argumentation and reasoning skills.

With support from AERA and PSLC, the conference brought together scholars from disciplines such as education, linguistics, psychology, and computer science (See link in Conferences at left).

The “Socializing Intelligence” conference is the first time scholars from as far as Queensland, Australia, and as near as CMU have come together to present their findings on dialogic learning and instruction. From middle-school students’ engagement in classroom conversations about math to elementary children’s interaction with virtual peers, researchers presented on student learning in specific settings that focus on dialogue and interaction. Instruction based on dialogic models of interaction is linked to performance gains in the areas studied and in other content areas such as English language arts, math, and science. Computer tutoring, computer supported collaborative learning (CSCL), virtual peers, and collaborative on-line gaming systems are also considered in discussions of dialogic learning today. Learning in these settings has become the focus of much study and debate, particularly in light of Foldit, a gaming system of multiple players, that recently solved a molecular puzzle that eluded scientists for more than a decade (Read more at http://cosmiclog.msnbc.msn.com). A volume based on the papers presented at the conference is being prepared and its availability will be announced.