

THE LOWDOWN ON THE LATEST PRACTITIONER-LED PEBBLEPAD WEBINAR

If you're big on great ideas, but short on time, this document contains the highlights from the latest practitioner-led PebblePad webinar, along with a link to the full recording. The webinar: **Assessment, Advising, and Student-Directed Learning through the Integration of PebblePad into a Visually Impaired Learner Program** is led by Dr. Holly Lawson from Portland State University, USA, and makes for a terrific showcase of pedagogical trailblazing – exactly what we've come to expect from our brilliant PebblePad community. **Enjoy.**



ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Holly Lawson, PhD, is the coordinator of the Visually Impaired Learner program at Portland State University. Since 1994, she has worked in the VIL field, beginning as a residential instructor for the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and then the Peace Corps in Morocco. Her master's and PhD are from the University of Arizona where she held several positions in teaching and research. She joined PSU in 2014, having previously worked as an assistant professor and the coordinator for the Virginia Consortium of Teacher Preparation in Vision Impairment at George Mason University.



ABOUT THE WEBINAR

From all the team here at PebblePad, we want to thank Holly for a wonderful webinar focussing on a fully online graduate program at Portland State University (PSU) in Portland Oregon, USA. PebblePad was procured by PSU in 2014 as an enterprise-wide learning journey platform, where early PebblePad adopters were selected to help approach and solve significant challenges facing their teaching and learning areas. In this webinar Holly discusses a three-pillar PebblePad approach to support targeted areas of her VIL program.

These three pillars are:

1. a comprehensive and student driven advising workbook
2. a highly reflective and multi-stakeholder documentation process for practicum and student teaching placements
3. authentic culminating portfolios that highlight the unique course taking and competency based trajectories of her candidates, and captures additional and overlapping certificates and licensures.



IT'S BEEN A REALLY INTERESTING JOURNEY AND I THINK IN THE END IT'S BEEN FUN. I ACTUALLY FEEL LIKE I ENJOY THIS PART OF MY JOB!

KEY TAKEAWAYS

TAKEAWAY ONE

Regarding the Advising Workbook, Holly discussed how she needed a digital platform that provided advising for her students throughout their program of study since she is not only recruiting, but also helping candidates seek employment, and the licensure and endorsement requirements are different in each state. As a faculty member overseeing over 65 credits worth of course work in many different states, Holly also shared how the PebblePad workbook frees up capacity by supporting student-directed activity – enabling some ownership to be handed over to the candidates.

TAKEAWAY TWO

In relation to the practicum workbook and reflective templates, Holly described how she wants candidates to have a rich practicum experience where they can reflect on their field based experiences and receive feedback from their mentors around the personal goals they had designed for themselves. One of the program objectives is to help candidates learn how to teach their students virtually. Holly demonstrated how by modeling this approach in PebblePad it helps candidates understand how important it is for students to curate information and experiences.

TAKEAWAY THREE

Holly talked about the ePortfolio element being about having a space to support Professional Standards in an authentic way, and described how she loved going back and seeing what students have done . . . and how powerful it is to get a glimpse of what candidates are doing in their teaching and practicum settings. Holly also noted that a further advantage of the ePortfolio is that it allows for candidates to collaborate with each other and receive peer feedback, and the reality is that most of Holly's candidates are hired before they actually leave her program.

View the full webinar recording at:

<https://pebblepad.wistia.com/medias/aza7nlhq6x>



EPORTFOLIO IS ABOUT SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN AN AUTHENTIC WAY AND ALLOWING CANDIDATES TO COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER.