



The Policy Studies Organization

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..... Pressing Issues Amid the Political Maelstrom

December 7, 2012 * Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington, DC
Sponsored by the American Public University and the George Mason University

Panel Speakers

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Topic: "Technology, Innovation, Education, and Policy"

This presentation addresses advances in technology, its impact on education, and the need for policy. Technology is advancing at an unprecedented pace; and trends indicate that this pace of innovation is only going to accelerate. Unfortunately, education lags way behind these advances in technology. Forecasts indicate that there are many breakthrough technologies in the concept phase such as layered displays, surface technologies, natural-gesture based computing, eye-movement based computing and adaptive technologies. These technologies have a far reaching impact on education, on IT infrastructure, and on policy (security and privacy included).

We are all too familiar with social media and with mobile computing devices such as smartphones and tablets. Unfortunately, most schools and universities do not have a coherent strategy to incorporate these technologies into the classroom. We do have some early adopters who dabble with these technologies; but there are very few comprehensive, campus-wide strategies for incorporating technology into learning. Also, consumerization of technology has empowered our learners (students) to be engaged in learning even outside the classroom on an as-needed basis. When education does not keep up with technology that our students use on a daily basis; the quality of the learning experience is compromised. The explosion of these technologies has also spawned other concerns such as privacy and security. Our evening news have included incidences of unacceptable texting, cyberbullying, and cybercrime. Technology related policies must include sections on texting, social media, cyberbullying, privacy, and security.