20 Most Promising Education Tech Solution Providers

The education sector is evolving with nature defining speeds towards new ways of teaching and learning. The metamorphosis is brought out by advent of technology in education. Smart mobile devices, social networking, virtual classrooms, identity management systems, faculty evaluation systems, data analytics and array of educational technologies have taken education to all new heights—both within and outside the classrooms.

The major change is reflecting in the traditional book based learning that is being replaced with digital solutions. With this, teachers now have the ability to engage students in better ways like projecting the 3D image of DNA on to the screen and simulating the process of Meiosis and Mitosis. The same technology can be applied to any streams of learning. Assisting these learning methods are a multitude of smart devices, which were earlier considered as distractions for students. But the very devices are now leading way for immersive learning. Teachers are distributing learning contents to all the students' devices and roam across the class instructing and helping individuals with doubts.
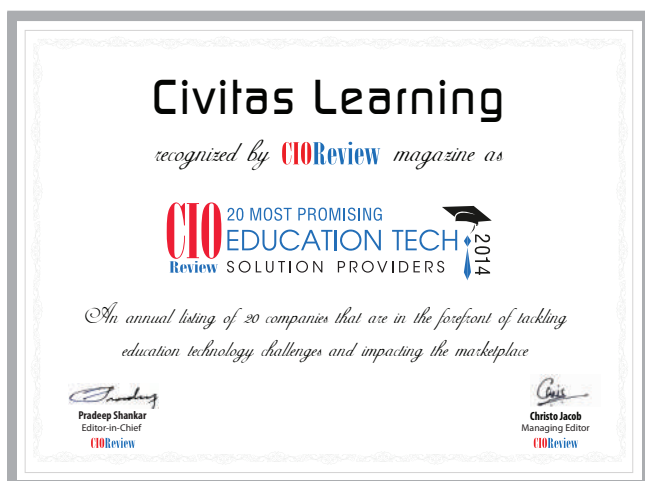
Technology is also helping the institutions to better cater to student's idiosyncrasies, through data analytics. The historic academic data is analyzed with respect to student's social background, their interests and the current trends in education to guide them towards the best courses and colleges available and also help design best teaching methods to suite their learning abilities.

With universities growing in size, establishing various branches and offering online education, it becomes necessary to securely manage student and staff data, ensure strict and smooth authentication processes and manage identities. All these needs are catered by identity, student and faculty management systems.

There are array of such technologies that are changing education landscape for good. Now the teachers have better instructional tools, administrators have better management tools and students have better learning tools. Behind the scenes are group of companies that are fueling this educational transformations through their innovative technological solutions.

In this edition of CIO Review, we bring to you "20 Most Promising Education Technology Solution Providers 2014" and "20 Most Promising Education Technology Service Providers 2014," featuring the best solution and service providers offering technologies and services related to Education. The companies listed here showcases extensive business knowledge and innovative strategies combined with talent base across locations.

A distinguished panel comprising of CEOs, CIOs, CMOs, VCs, analysts and CIO Review editorial board has selected the top players from over thousand companies. The listing provide a look into how education solutions work in the real world, so that you can gain a comprehensive understanding of what technologies are available, which are right for you, and how they shape up against the competition.

Civitas Learning

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CIO 20 MOST PROMISING
Review EDUCATION TECH
SOLUTION PROVIDERS 2014

An annual listing of 20 companies that are in the forefront of tackling education technology challenges and impacting the marketplace

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Civitas Learning

Key Person:
Charles Thornburgh,
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Description:
Using a cloud-based, predictive analytics platform and engaging applications, Civitas-Learning helps partner institutions to improve student learning, persistence, and graduation.

Civitas Learning
Predictive Analytics to Steer Better Student Outcomes

The United States must produce roughly one million more graduates a year by 2025 to ensure the country has the skilled workers and entrepreneurial leaders it needs–not to mention more deeply engaged and informed citizens. Of the 30 million students in higher education today, about half will graduate, with huge disparities based on the income levels of incoming students. Today, a child born poor in the United States is more likely to remain poor than at any time in our nation's history. For the first time, younger generations will be less educated than their elders. Civitas Learning is on a mission to help solve this problem. "By harnessing the power of insight and action analytics, we partner with forward-thinking colleges and universities to help students learn well and finish strong," said Charles Thornburgh, CEO and Co-Founder of Civitas Learning. "As daunting as the challenge of one million more graduates sounds, we can reach the goal together by helping our community colleges and universities improve outcomes for current students, and find creative new pathways for returning students."

Reaching this goal would increase today's annual output of associate and bachelor's degree-holders by about 3.5 percent a year for the next decade – a goal that's very achievable.

Civitas Learning helps higher education institutions by systematically tapping into the wealth of current and historical student data across diverse systems, and piecing them into coherent and useful student stories. "As the pieces come together, it builds up the story where we can literally watch how different students progress, and see when and where they face challenges,"

Charles Thornburgh

> ## "We bring together the best of education and technology to help students learn well and finish strong"

says Thornburgh. These stories, which are brought to the front lines in well-designed, user-friendly apps by Civitas, help faculty members identify struggling students who need more instruction and also help advisors with those students who are at most risk.

Civitas Learning's Illume™ Platform and App provides the core insights necessary for institutions to take action. It helps analyze key institutional metrics, such as course success, persistence, and graduation. It provides views of historical results and predictions of future performance. Degree Map™, and the Inspire™ suite of applications developed by Civitas Learning that run on the Illume™ Platform offer institutions the best of predictive analytics to support their current and future student success initiatives in real-time. Civitas also aims to fuel an ecosystem of action analytics apps from partners/publishers, open source community, universities—with their insight analytics. "The real value of this work will be creating a community of educators using data to tune these apps to have the greatest impact on student success," says Thornburgh.

Civitas Learning's work with University of Maryland University College (UMUC) is one such example where data insights turned into a success story. Leveraging the Civitas Learning predictive analytics platform and Inspire applications, UMUC ran a pilot program to test the efficacy of using predictive analytics-based interventions to improve successful course completion rates. Over the course of three terms starting in spring 2013, UMUC and Civitas Learning built predictive models, tested different approaches to intervention, and evaluated outcomes in detail. During the fall 2013 term, across an experimental pool of approximately 10,000 undergraduate enrollments, the test group outperformed the control group in successful course completion by nearly 3 percentage points. "It translated to 150 students who passed, who otherwise would have failed," says Thornburgh.

Civitas Learning is currently focused on higher education, with an eye on K-12 and workforce development in the near future. **CR**