

## **Scientific Research Base for Classroom Connect's Online Professional Development: Connected University**

### **A Summary of Research Findings on Adult Online Learning**

#### Overview

On January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This law increases the demands on K-12 educators to account for their successes in terms of what each student accomplishes. Two major principles of this law emphasize teaching methods that have been proven to work and stronger accountability for the results of teaching. Thus, the current administration has been emphasizing the need for continuous professional development because "[h]igh quality professional development on an ongoing basis is one way schools and districts can leverage improvement in professional practice and increased student achievement." (National Staff Development Council & National Institute for Community Innovations, 2001)

Connected University, Classroom Connect's online professional development program, provides educators with courses, learning resources, just-in-time support, and a convenient way to interact with peers nationwide to integrate technology and improve student learning in the classroom. The purpose of this research summary is to demonstrate clearly how Classroom Connect's online professional development meets national standards for staff development and how it incorporates research-based strategies and recommendations for adult learning.

To help make the connections between standards, research, and Connected University, the sections of the document are organized by:

- A key standard as identified by the National Staff Development Council to guide high-quality performance in professional learning;
- Excerpts from the research that support and guide product development;
- From Research to Practice, providing features and instructional references that show how Classroom Connect's online professional development incorporates the particular standards and research-based instructional recommendations.

For a copy of the research summary, contact your local Classroom Connect sales representative or call 1-800-638-1639.