Pinckney Benedict
Professor, School of Literature, Writing, and Digital Humanities; Interim Director, Center for Virtual Expression

The Classroom of Tomorrow: Revolutionizing Learning with Augmented Reality

"The Classroom of Tomorrow: Revolutionizing Learning with Augmented Reality" proposes an avant-garde educational model using the Southern Illinois University's Center for Virtual Expression (CVeX). This initiative aims to harness the potential of Augmented Reality (AR) through 15 high-end Quest 3 headsets, integrating AI-driven platforms like ChatGPT. Utilizing CVeX's existing infrastructure, including fifteen advanced gaming PCs, robust Wi-Fi v6, and ample spatial configurations for both co-located and individual learning environments, the project transcends traditional educational boundaries.

The project's core is to create an AR-enabled classroom where students, irrespective of their physical location, can interact in a shared virtual space. This space is not only a conduit for conventional learning but also a gateway to immersive experiences—historical walkthroughs, scientific simulations, and interactive language learning. The integration of AI facilitates personalized learning trajectories, offering real-time feedback, language translation, and adaptive content catering to individual learning styles and needs.

Our objective is to enhance student engagement and understanding through interactive and immersive learning. The anticipated outcomes include improved knowledge retention, heightened interest in learning, and the preparation of students for a technologically advanced future. This project aligns with SIU's commitment to innovative educational practices and aims to set a new standard for technology-driven learning environments.