Podcasting to Add Value to Clinically-Based Curricula

Jennifer C. Friberg, CCC-SLP/SRCL Illinois State University Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

Why Podcasting?

- CSD 318: Professional Issues in Speech Pathology and Audiology
 - First taught online in summer of 2006
 - Focus group in spring 2007 identified one main shortcoming in online course design
 - Awarded Podcasting Initiative Grant (through CTLT) for summer 2007
 - Implemented use of podcasting in fall semester of 2007

Implementation of Podcasts

2 types of podcasts used:

- Weekly Course Happenings (WCH) podcasts
 - Made available to students Monday morning each week
 - Reviewed information relevant to the mechanics of the course
- Clinician Interview (CI) podcasts
 - 6 different speech-language pathologists and audiologists were interviewed about topics relevant to course curriculum
 - CI podcasts dispersed throughout the semester

Podcasts were...

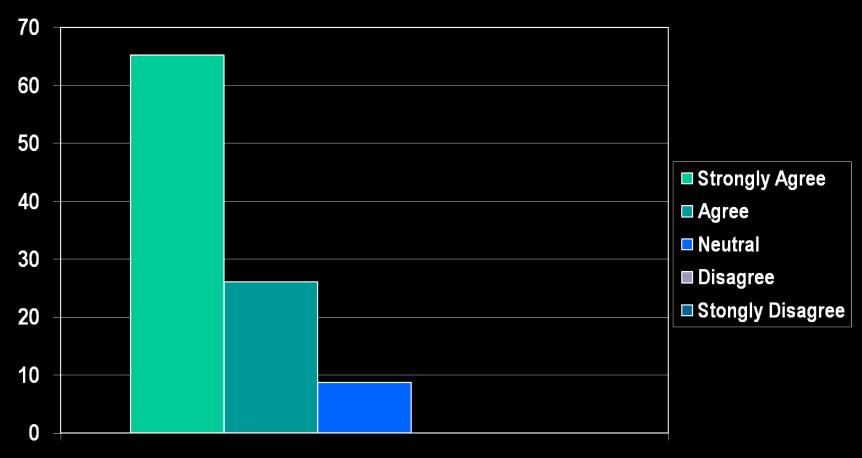
- Made available via WebCT and Blackboard
- Considered to be supplements to curriculum
- Provided information to bridge the "theory-to-practice" gap noted by students in initial focus group session

Participants

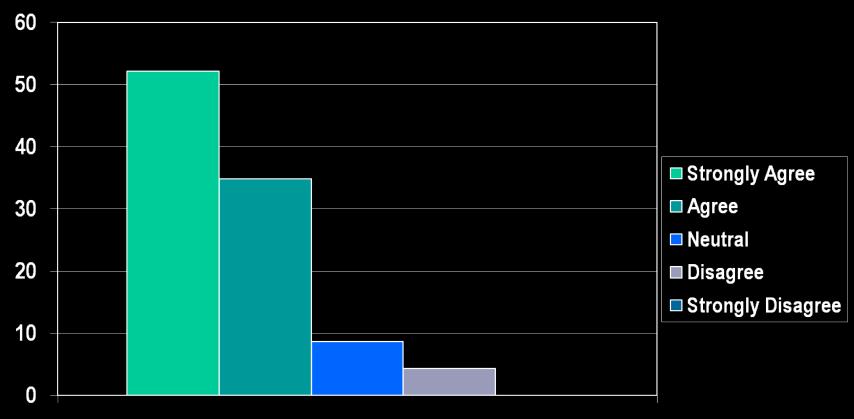
- 23 undergraduate students enrolled in CSD 318 in the fall semester of 2007
 - All but 3 were traditional undergrads, all were female
 - 52.2% had taken a prior online course
 - 13% had prior experience listening to podcasts of any kind
 - 96% reported listening to supplementary podcasts used over the course of the semester
 - Of these, 70% of participants reported listening to every podcast posted during the semester

Student Impressions

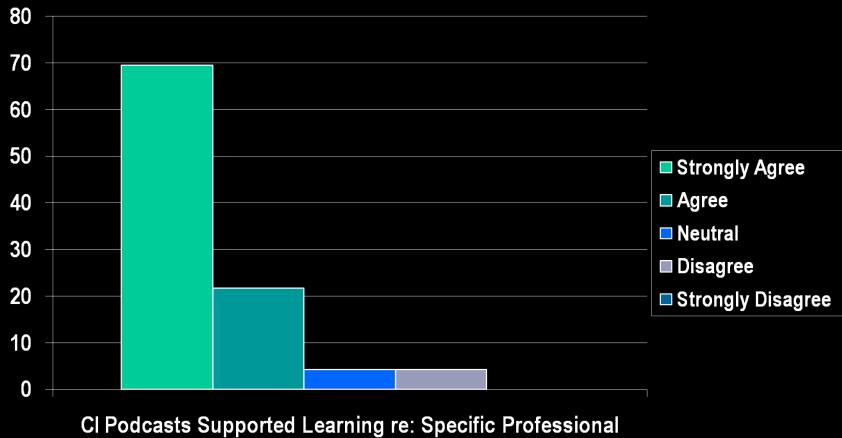
- Participants were asked to complete a survey using surveymonkey.com during the last week of classes in the semester
- Survey was open/closed/Likert-type in nature
- 100% response rate



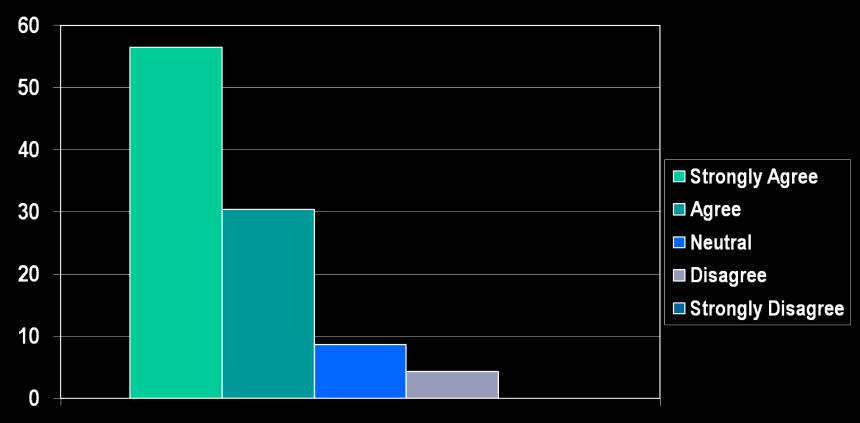
Accessing Podcasts Was Easy to Do (X=4.57)



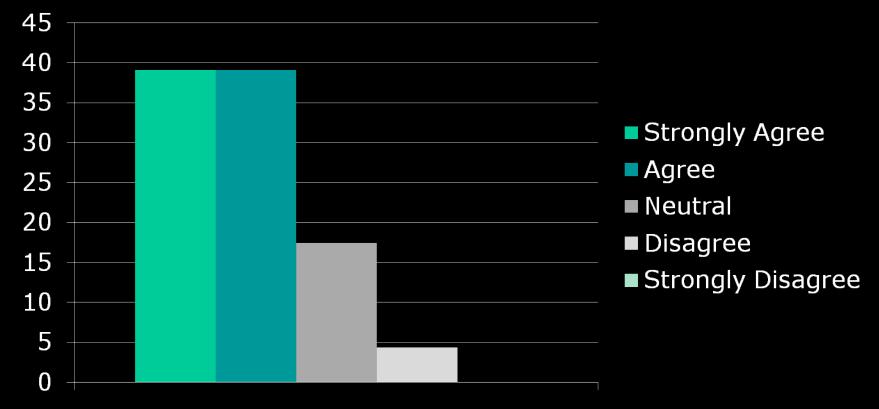
Listening to Podcasts Helped Me Learn More About Content/Procedures (X=4.35)



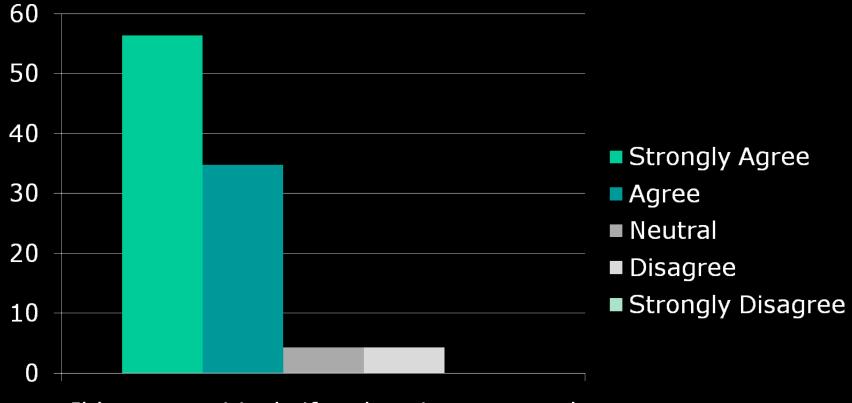
lssues (X=4.57)



CI Podcasts Helped Me Remember More About Specific Professional Issues (X=4.39)



Experiences in this course were enhanced due to the use of podcasting (X=4.13)



I'd react positively if podcasting was used in other CSD courses (X=4.43)

Participants' Subjective Impressions

- By far, participants preferred the CI podcasts, and noted two specific podcasts as favorites (SLPP, Service Delivery Models in the Schools)
- Most negative feedback had to do with the technology associated with podcasting

Participants Indicated That...

- "I liked hearing other people's points of view."
- "I felt like I was kind of connected to the teacher and had interaction with her."
- "We had "guest speakers" all semester."
- "It just helped bring everything together. The podcasts made it seem like any other class."
- "Podcasts made class more personal."
- "CI podcasts really added dimension to the class."
- "You could listen more than once.
- "I'd like to see podcasts used to review for your super hard quizzes!"