US- Japan Undergraduate Students Collaboration on Designing Technology Based Instructional Materials

I am planning to use the knowledge gained about Japan and Japanese culture in one or two courses for undergraduate students. The students will integrate modern technologies in an educational setting. The goal for this project is to provide opportunities for pre-service teachers from colleges of education in the US and Japan to collaborate on designing technology based instructional materials. Undergraduate students from both countries will be able to work on cross-cultural research using anime, manga and other concepts of Japanese and American cultures.

Students will develop educational materials that will focus on:

- teaching, learning and assessing core subjects areas
- prevalence and related factors of Internet addiction and prevention of cyber-bullying.

The focus of this work is to find the best and the most exciting ways for students to become engaged in mutual research and culture exploration thought collaborative work focused on designing instructional materials that could be used in both countries.

Our approach will integrate several steps.

- The first is to identify and secure Japan-based collaborative partner(s).
- The second is to provide an opportunity for undergraduate students from both countries to be able to work collaboratively on technology based instructional materials.
- The third is actually developing instructional materials.
- The fourth step is testing and finding how their instructional materials help other students to learn.
- Lastly, this opportunity could possibly lead to a potential study abroad program in Japan.

We expect this approach to be appealing, not just for the university students, who will design and develop the materials, but also for secondary school students who will actually use them in the future. Potential benefits of this work include collaborative endeavors between American and Japanese students within the realm of modern online technologies and educational strategies. Students will learn new cultures and new ways to work with each other while designing technology based instructional materials and implementing them at schools. At the end of the project post surveys will be conducted in both countries.