June 10, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide a professional reference for Dr. Thomas Tobin. Dr. Tobin presented the keynote address at the annual EdTech Academy at Roane State Community College in May 2015. Dr. Tobin was selected as the keynote due to his engaging style of delivery on the 104 Best Practices in Desire2Learn. Not only did he review some of the features of our course management system but he elaborated on the pedagogy behind the best practices.

His high energy as demonstrated by his interaction with faculty and staff, as well as through his lively presentation, was infectious. Dr. Tobin was able to review 104 best practices within an hour and then asked the audience to select three to four for a deeper dive. His experience as a full-time faculty member as well as a Desire2Learn user held the attention of our faculty.

In addition to the keynote address, Dr. Tobin presented on Universal Design for Learning. His no nonsense approach to course design for interaction and accessibility made a huge impression on the attendees. He continually asked questions and examples from the participants to continue engagement and not passive learning.

Dr. Tobin came to our attention from one of our staff members who attended his workshop session at Desire2Learn Fusion 2014. Darren York, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, was impressed with both his knowledge and delivery style. Dr. Tobin lived up to our expectations and worked with us to tweak his presentations for our audience.

It was a pleasure to have Dr. Thomas Tobin as the keynote and workshop presenter at the 2015 EdTech Academy. I give him my highest recommendation as a keynote speaker and highly regarded educator who shares his own and others' experience in designing, developing, and delivering online content in our ever-changing technical world.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Rhodes

Dean, Student Academic Services
Roane State Community College

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