



Growing Online Learning

2016: Implementing Best Practices

FREE web-based conference for Illinois community colleges.

February 23 – 25, 2016

Keynote – Five Online Teaching Best Practices You Can Do Today (and Why They Increase Student Retention, Persistence, and Satisfaction)

Thomas Tobin
Coordinator of Learning Technologies, Northeastern
Illinois University

Author: *Evaluating Online Teaching: Implementing Best Practices* (Jossey-Bass, 2015)



Feb. 23 9:00 AM	Five Online Teaching Best Practices You Can Do Today (and Why They Increase Student Retention, Persistence, and Satisfaction)	Thomas Tobin, Coordinator of Learning Technologies Northeastern Illinois University
Feb. 23 2:00 PM	Facilitating Learning in Composition I: Best Online Practices	Noel Berkey, English, Speech Sauk Valley Community College
Feb. 23 3:30 PM	Using Google+ Hangouts in synchronous and asynchronous student communications	Mary Phelps Clayton, Psychology Susan Hillabold, English Illinois Central College
Feb. 24 9:00 AM	Open Education Resources & Free Open Source Tools	Jenny Pecora-Kettley, English Kankakee Community College
Feb. 24 2:00 PM	Effects of Long Term Assessment	Pat Klette, Electrical Technology Kankakee Community College
Feb. 24 3:30 PM	Integrity in Online Assessment	Toni Burkhalter, Natural Sciences Parkland College
Feb. 25 9:00 AM	Eliminating Barriers for Online Student Success	Kona Jones, Director of Online Learning Richland Community College
Feb. 25 2:00 PM	Making the Most of Limited Resources to Teach Research Skills to Online Students	Tracey Johnson, Librarian Christina Faith, Library Clerk Shawnee Community College
Feb. 25 3:30 PM	Developing Online Courses: Creativity in Learner-Content Interaction	Amanda Eichman, Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, and English Robin Fisch, Instructional Designer Sauk Valley Community College

Registration and additional information are available [here](#).

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Sessions

Keynote: Five Online Teaching Best Practices You Can Do Today (and Why They Increase Student Retention, Persistence, and Satisfaction)

February 23, 9:00 AM

Thomas Tobin

Coordinator of Learning Technologies, Northeastern Illinois University

Whether you have been teaching online for years or you're new to it, one thing you want to know is how your teaching has a positive impact for students. In this interactive session, you'll learn five specific ways to create quality online teaching interactions with your students--and leave knowing why these five tools increase student retention, persistence, and satisfaction.

Thomas J. Tobin is the Coordinator of Learning Technologies in the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. In the field of online-course and -program quality, he is best known for his work on administrative-evaluation techniques; his article on "Best Practices for Administrative Evaluation of Online Faculty" (2004) is considered a seminal work in the field, and has been cited in more than 150 publications.

His latest work is *Evaluating Online Teaching: Implementing Best Practices* (Wiley, 2015) with B. Jean Mandernach and Ann H. Taylor. He is currently writing *Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone: A Practitioner's Guide to Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education*, expected from West Virginia University Press in 2017. Since the advent of online courses in higher education in the late 1990s, Tom's work has focused on using technology to extend the reach of higher education beyond its traditional audience. He advocates for the educational rights of people with disabilities and people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Tom serves on the editorial boards of *InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching*, the *Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration* and the *Journal of Interactive Online Learning*, and he is an internationally-recognized speaker and author on topics related to quality in distance education, especially copyright, evaluation of teaching practice, academic integrity, and accessibility/universal design for learning.

Facilitating Learning in Composition I: Best Online Practices

February 23, 2:00 PM

Noel Berkey
Sauk Valley Community College

This session will address how example essays, forum discussions, instructor-generated audio messages, and essay evaluations can help students develop key writing skills in an online composition course.

Using Google+ Hangouts in synchronous and asynchronous student communications

February 23, 3:30 PM

Mary Phelps Clayton and Susan Hillabold
Illinois Central College

Dr. Susan Hillabold and Professor Mary Phelps both use Google Hangouts in asynchronous and synchronous student communication. Demonstrations will include how to access this free tool, how to create a permanent link on a Learning Management System, how to facilitate mobile/tablet access through an app, how to incorporate gaming into a synchronous active learning environment, and how to create an ongoing instant messaging setting.

Mary Phelps uses Google Hangouts daily for her office hours and private student communications, which she can also archive. Susan Hillabold uses Google Hangouts synchronously for weekly virtual office hours and class lectures. Both will provide student assessments of this versatile tool that can be configured to meet any online situation.

The overarching advantages of using this tool is that it provides a real faculty presence, accommodates guest lecturers in remote locations, allows students to share their work either with the professor or in a group setting, and, finally, accommodates multiple learning styles.

Open Education Resources & Free Open Source Tools

February 24, 9:00 AM

Jenny Pecora-Kettley
Kankakee Community College

Open Education Resources & Free Open Source Tools: Come to learn about some of the available Open Education Resources & free Open Source Tools that can benefit your classrooms, and to share those that you know of as well. Some popular OERs will be demonstrated, including Creative Commons, OER Commons, and Merlot.

Effects of Long Term Assessment

February 24, 2:00 PM

Pat Klette
Kankakee Community College

Learn how long term assessment data is being used enhance instructional methodologies, leading to improved student outcomes and learning..

Integrity in Online Assessment

February 24, 3:30PM

Toni Burkhalter
Parkland College

With more institutions looking to online education as a viable platform, educators reflect on the question, “how can we assess student learning while maintaining the rigor and integrity of the course?” Rather than being disheartened by the challenge, instructors can choose to view the topic with a different lens. Ultimately, the burden is on the instructor to create thoughtful, well-designed assessments that allow students to demonstrate mastery of the material. The webinar “Integrity in Online Assessment” will discuss how instructors can encourage students to produce unique work while engaging in meaningful learning.

Eliminating Barriers for Online Student Success

February 25, 9:00 AM

Kona Jones
Richland Community College

Technology can be a barrier to student success yet with the right support it becomes their ticket to student centered learning. This session discusses best practices in preparing online students, and options for identifying, tracking, and supporting at-risk students.

Making the Most of Limited Resources to Teach Research Skills to Online Students

February 25, 2:00 PM

Tracey Johnson and Christina Faith
Shawnee Community College

Tracey and Christina have made the most of their available tools and skills to serve both online and traditional students. Though budgets are tight and technology limited, they have managed to teach research skills to online students and share library resources through newsletters, online training and other creative approaches. Come share in the stories of their successes and struggles and see the challenges of a rural academic library in an age of shrinking resources.

Developing Online Courses: Creativity in Learner-Content Interaction

February 25, 3:30 PM

Amanda Eichman and Robin Fisch
Sauk Valley Community College

This session will focus on developing an online course using a formal professional development process. Practical tips for increasing student interaction with course content will be shared.