Building Scalable and Sustainable Online Professional Development Opportunities on a Shoestring Budget

During an economic downturn, institutions of higher education face significant budgetary constraints yet are expected to deliver more with less. One of the most successful strategies to extend resources in this type of situation is through the development of internal personnel. Self-paced online professional development opportunities can be designed and implemented in a scalable and sustainable fashion with little to no cost.

This presentation describes our institution’s efforts and successes in developing and implementing such an initiative. Over the course of a year and through the commitment of considerable time and effort, we developed an online resource to support professional development. Specifically, we created the infrastructure to build an online system to develop and deliver technology-related tutorials and an online weekly professional development workshop registration and workshop delivery system for our faculty and staff. Although this initiative was successfully launched without additional funding, the use of open source technologies and the tapping and leveraging of talent and expertise within our institution were critical to our success. Our online professional development resources are available to the public and will be shared during this presentation. We hope that through our experiences and strategies, other institutions can achieve similar success.