Building Capacity for Blended and Online Course Development: Evolving from Project to Community of Practice

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Our blended and online course development began as a small faculty collaborative project among pioneers interested in leveraging technologies to support learning outcomes. Today, it is a multi-faceted blended and online course development program designed to assist and recognize faculty in their efforts to integrate information technology in their courses. This initiative harnesses both institutional and emerging technologies and invites an interdisciplinary faculty, in which a combination of face-to-face sessions and on-line activities has been developed to provide an authentic hybrid and online learning experience. The goals of assisting in course re-design and encouraging experimentation with various technologies are reached through a pedagogical approach which blends theory, active learning techniques, collegial interactions, mentoring and continued learning through community of practice network events.

The project has evolved into a faculty-led program designed as a simulated "blended course" to guide participants through the various stages of course redesign with a learner-centered focus as well as explore the integration of educational technology. This session will outline the evolution of our program and our approaches to supporting faculty development in this area, sustaining blended practices and supporting academic goals. In addition, our approach emphasizes active learning from the student perspective. We continue our efforts to integrate campus wide competency-based outcomes in course design and focus on building capacity to improve digital competencies as a strategic objective for students and faculty. We will share our faculty feedback and discuss lessons learned. Participants will learn how our blended teaching and learning Community of Practice activities provide further opportunities for formal and informal learning, and promotes stewardship amongst its members.