IMPROVING AND EXPANDING THE LANDSCAPE FOR QUALITY ONLINE INSTRUCTION

Presenters

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Over the course of this presentation, we will:

1. Discuss the state of online instructor training at individual institutions, challenges faced in training faculty, and propose a solution.

2. Explain the importance of teaching facilitation skills.

3. Promote the use of Quality Matters Standards in course design.

How many of your institutions require instructors to be trained to teach online courses?

What challenges do you face in training faculty?

OUR FINDINGS

In New Mexico, 2 of the 12 institutions in our state consortium offer instructor training.

There was an interest in certifying all online instructors and ensuring quality in online delivery.

Training offered needed to be balanced and available for adaptation.

TOO LITTLE, TOO MUCH…
OR NOTHING AT ALL!

- Training that emphasized only the LMS

- Offering too much information in one course

- No training

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

Short, quick, boot-camp style courses

Presenting too much information at once

Trying to teach everything at once

Under-estimating faculty

WHAT WORKS

Training that emphasizes and models best practices in:

- Online Course Facilitation
- Quality Matters Course Design

FACILITATOR TRAINING

Should Include:

- Importance of faculty presence in the online learning environment
- Value of clear communication and feedback
- Importance of conveying professionalism and experience in an online course
- Appropriate use of LMS Tools and Technological Aptitude

PROMOTING QUALITY MATTERS

Should Include:

- ADDIE Design

- Explanation and application of all 41 QM Standards

- Demonstrated ability to meet all QM Standards in the development of course content, learning activities, and assessments suitable for the online environment

- Tips on writing constructive feedback

- Apply the Quality Matters Rubric to assess the content and design of a course shell

HOW DO YOU ENSURE COURSES DEVELOPED MEET QM STANDARDS?

REQUIRE TRAINING

Be sure to concentrate on facilitation methods *and* design (QM Standards)

- Don't just focus on teaching the LMS

Offer a course on facilitating and a separate course on design concepts

Prepare to offer follow up training on specific topics

Build an online faculty support community

DISCUSSION

IN SMALL GROUPS:

Share your experience with online course facilitation and design.

What training did you have?

What training does your institution currently offer?

What is your experience implementing QM at your institution and in your course?

What tips would you give to improve and expand the landscape of quality online instruction at your institution?

KEY TAKE AWAY:

If you train faculty in best practices in facilitation and design (QM), they will produce quality courses and provide quality instruction.