

Online Faculty Update

From the Center for Instructional Technology

Summer 2017
Newsletter

12th Annual Conference on eLearning
Sharing Best Practices

Massachusetts
Colleges **Online**
one click. zero commute.



Massachusetts Colleges Online Conference News!

This year at the MCO 12th Annual Conference on eLearning, two of WSU's finest online instructors received the 2017 Massachusetts Colleges Online (MCO) Course of Distinction (COD) Award. The award is given to state faculty who develop and teach innovative online and blended courses that are representative of the best uses of eLearning instructional tools to enhance student success.

The awards were presented during MCO's 12th Annual Conference on eLearning "Sharing Best Practices" at Greenfield Community College, held on June 6th. MCO is a consortium of the 15 community colleges and 9 state colleges of Massachusetts. The institutions have joined to share their convenient and flexible online courses and programs with students throughout the state and beyond.



WSU's 2017 MCO Course of Distinction winner for an online course is Professor David Christensen of the Biology Department. He was awarded the Online COD Award for his "Biology Today" course. Congratulations to Professor Christensen for creating this award winning online course!

WSU's 2017 MCO Course of Distinction winner for a hybrid course is Professor Ziblim Abukari of the Social Work Department. He was awarded the Hybrid COD Award for his "Human Behavior and the Social Environment" course. Congratulations to Professor Abukari for creating this award winning hybrid course!



New MCO Organizational Website Unveiled!



At the conference Lynn Zayac, MCO Conference Co-Chair & MCO Co-Chair, unveiled the new MCO organization Web Site.

Go to to <http://masscollegesonline.org/> to see what MCO has to offer on our new website, with more features to follow shortly.

New MCO Student Course Program Finder Portal

At the conference Lynn and April also showcased the new MCO Student Course Program Finder Portal site. They presented how it will look and function.

Lynn Zayac and April Bellafore obtained a \$50,000.00 GPSTEM grant to redesign the Student Portal. The site is in Beta Testing but will be relaunched on August 6th. Lynn Zayac is project coordinator for this website.

Current Interim landing page <http://mco.mass.edu>
New Student Portal Site (relaunching August 6th)



WSU Representation at the Conference



Westfield State's own Marsha Olsen, Program Coordinator for the Center for Teacher Education & Research, was the lucky winner of the grand prize drawing, an iPad mini! Congratulations Marsha! Other raffle prize winners from WSU were Susan Lamay-Miller from the Communications Department and Holly Noun from the Movement Science Department!

Our WSU COD winners (Dave Christensen from Biology, and Ziblim Abukari from Social Work), and four WSU presenters (Jen Hanselman from Biology, Barbara Chalfonte from Psychology, Tim Lord & Lisa Clark from the CIT) had an awesome cheering section since we had over 18 WSU faculty and staff members in attendance! It was wonderful to have such a great support at the MCO conference.

Save the Date for the 2018 MCO Conference!

Mark your calendars now for the 2018 MCO Conference!
Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at Framingham State University.