

# Online Faculty Update

From the Center for Instructional Technology

Spring 2017  
Newsletter

## Hello from Lynn Zayac!



I hope you are having a wonderful spring semester! We have been very busy here in the Center for Instructional Technology, and we have some great information to share with you. ~ Lynn Zayac, Director

Center for Instructional Technology - [lzayac@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:lzayac@westfield.ma.edu)

## 2017 Online Faculty Showcase - Request for participants

The Center for Instructional Technology will hold the **2017 Online Faculty Showcase on February 27, 28, March 1, and 2**. All instructors are invited to share best practices in their exemplary online, hybrid and blended courses with their peers in a 20 minute presentation. Presenters are asked to highlight course presentation, interaction, use of tools, and ease of navigation.

The 2017 Mass Colleges Online Course of Distinction "COD" will be awarded in both an "Online" category and a "Blended" category at the MCO Conference on June 6, 2017 at Greenfield Community College. The two highest scoring presentations in the Online Faculty Showcase (as judged by a panel of previous COD winners and committee members) will be selected as the 2017 COD winners.

Interested instructors are encouraged to sign up for a presentation time by clicking on the CIT Calendar at <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/cit/> and selecting an available time slot and clicking "reserve seat."

Check out all of the past COD winning courses at: <https://codawards.wordpress.com/>

## MCO's 12th Annual Conference on eLearning



### Save the Date! - June 6, 2017 at Greenfield Community College.

Consider attending the 2017 Mass Colleges Online (MCO) Conference on eLearning and Best Practices on June 6, 2017 at Greenfield Community College.

- **Support:** Join us to support the WSU COD winners as they receive the prestigious Course of Distinction (COD) award.
- **Learn:** Mass Colleges Online Conference on eLearning allows attendees to explore, discuss, and understand how colleges and universities in Massachusetts are using online education to improve teaching, learning, interacting, and communicating with our students.
- **Present:** CIT would like to encourage online faculty to submit a presentation proposal in one of the following areas: Teaching & Learning, Technology, and Academic and Administrative Support in online learning.

Interested in attending or presenting? Email Lynn Zayac, MCO Co-Conference Chair, and MCO Liason at [lzayac@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:lzayac@westfield.ma.edu).



## Interested in putting your course online? Apply for Web Camp!

The Web Camp dates are set! Day or DGCE faculty who would like to teach online should apply for one of the upcoming Web Camps! Web Camp will teach faculty how to migrate face-to-face classes to an online format using the Plato Learning Management System. The upcoming dates are as follows:

### Spring 2017 Web Camp - Tuesdays

February 28, March 7, 21, 28, & April 4, & 11  
from 3:30 - 6:30 pm  
*Application Deadline: February 22, by noon*

### Summer 2017 Web Camp

June 1, 2, 8, 9, & 12  
from 9 am - 1 pm  
*Application Deadline: May 19, by noon*

[Click here for details and instructions on how to apply!](#)

For any questions about the application process, please contact  
Lynn Zayac at [lzayac@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:lzayac@westfield.ma.edu)



## Online Program and Web Camp Awards

- U.S. News & World Report - "Best Online Bachelor's Programs" (5 yrs in a row)
- Affordable Colleges Online - "Best Online Psychology Degree"
- Board of Higher Education - "Program of Distinction" (Web Camp)
- The Best Schools - "The 20 Best Online Bachelor in History Degree Programs"
- University Continuing Education Association Award - "Innovative & Creative Programing" (Web Camp)

## Schedule a Plato Quick Start Session or Tune Up with Lisa Clark

**Haven't used PLATO? Schedule a PLATO Quick Start session with Lisa!** Learn how to upload your syllabus and readings, hold threaded discussions, create assignment dropboxes, and much more. Lisa will show you how to supplement your face-to-face courses with these great tools!

**Current PLATO Users! Schedule a Course Tune-Up with Lisa.** Learn how to enhance your courses with great tools like VoiceThread, SafeAssign and Atomic Learning! Learn how to voice over PowerPoints or give a tour of your online course with various screen capture options or add sound file lectures to your class using Audacity. Get more familiar with the Grade Center and learn how to use the "CrocoDoc" tools when grading assignments. You can even set up a virtual office using Blackboard Collaborate to meet with students in real time, online from just about anywhere.

For more information or to set up an appointment contact:

Lisa Clark, Online Faculty Support Specialist  
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[www.westfield.ma.edu/plato](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/plato)

