

# Online Faculty Update

From the Center for Instructional Technology

Spring 2017  
Issue Two

## Hello from Lynn Zayac!



I hope your Spring semester is going well. As usual, we are very busy here in the C.I.T and we have some great news to share with you.

~ Lynn Zayac, Dir., Center for Instructional Technology -lzayac@westfield.ma.edu

## 4th Annual Online Faculty Showcase a Success!

### Professors Christensen & Abukari selected for the 2017 COD Award

The Center for Instructional Technology held the 4th Annual Online Faculty Showcase this past February. Several of our most outstanding presenters were invited to share their exemplary online, hybrid and blended courses and best practices with their peers. They highlighted 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 this year.** Two of WSU's esteemed professors were selected from the Online Faculty Showcase to receive this prestigious award.



**Professor David Christensen's Biology Today** course will be receiving the Online Award.

**Professor Ziblim Abukari's Human Behavior & Social Environment** course will be receiving the Blended Course Award.



*Congratulations to both of these amazing instructors! ~*

Join us to support Professors Christensen & Abukari as they receive the prestigious Course of Distinction (COD) award at the 12th Annual MCO Conference (see below for details).

## 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.

- **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!

There is still space in Summer Web Camp! Faculty who would like to teach online should apply no later than noon on May 19th!

Our award winning Web Camp will teach faculty how to migrate face-to-face classes to an online format using the Plato Learning Management System. Virtual Web Camp is also an option! The upcoming dates are as follows:

**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



MASSACHUSETTS  
Board of Higher Education



## 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)

