

"We've found the OLC Workshop Pass to be an indispensable way of managing faculty development for those interested in hybrid and online teaching."

Georges Detiveaux, **Assistant Director, Center for Teaching** and Learning **Excellence**



University of Houston-Downtown enrolls over 130 faculty in **OLC's Institute of Professional Development, cost-effectively**

Georges Detiveaux serves as the Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence at the University of Houston-Downtown in Houston, Texas (UHD). The university, he says, enjoyed membership in the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) since the creation of the Center two years ago.

UHD joined OLC at the recommendation of the center's online subcommittee, composed of faculty and staff across multiple disciplines and support areas and charged with supporting faculty in improving hybrid and online instruction at the university.

"Our OLC membership has been a tremendous benefit to our faculty, and we are making great strides in providing improved hybrid and online courses to our students thanks to it," says Georges.

"Because of the tremendous growth in online offerings in recent years, at the course, departmental, and program levels, we can't imagine being able to meet our faculty's development needs without connecting them to the workshops and certifications available through OLC. "

One of the perks of OLC Institutional membership is that only members can take advantage of the OLC Workshop Pass. The Pass offers optimal savings for faculty and administrators to attend the OLC Institute of Professional Development. The OLC Institute offers hundreds of workshops dedicated to quality online digital and blended learning.

"The OLC Workshop Pass," Georges says, "is an indispensable way of managing faculty development for those interested in hybrid and online teaching,"

"Given that OLC offers something for everyone, from the novice to the advanced online instructor, using workshop passes allows us to manage registrations, track completions, address various, unique faculty needs, and even showcase the accomplishments of the Center and the faculty we serve. That makes my job as



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faculty developer much easier. The pass option allows us to simplify and consolidate, and I'm all for that," says Georges enthusiastically.

The Workshop Pass offers Georges the flexibility to connect faculty to the exact learning opportunities they need. He consults with educator to help determine whether they need a workshop to learn more about a specific area of online teaching (group work, assessments, audio and video tools, rubrics, etc.) or just a general introduction to quality online teaching.

"Faculty appreciate that there is a staff member charged with handling registration for them," says Georges. "In addition to our covering the cost of registration, UHD also award stipends once they submit their completion certificates as further incentive for skills and professional development."

In the past academic year alone, over 130 UHD faculty have attended different OLC workshops. A savings of over \$20,000 off the regular rate!

And for the more experienced online educator, UHD faculty are taking advantage of the traditional and advanced certification programs OLC provides. In fact, in the 2015-2016 academic year, twelve UHD faculty graduated from these programs.

