



Jumpstart faculty expertise by enrolling in immersive, quality online teaching programs with the OLC Institute for Professional Development

While some Online Learning Consortium (OLC) members rely on OLC to supplement their internal online teaching programs, others like Baltimore's Coppin State University (CSU), a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), turn to OLC to provide their institution with an online learning jumpstart.

Dr. Dionne Curbeam, Director of Instructional Technology at Coppin State, strongly felt that if CSU was to offer online classes, its faculty needed to be 'retrained' so that courses taught online would match the integrity and quality of their traditional on-ground, brick and mortar programs.

To achieve this, CSU enrolled a handful of faculty in OLC's Online Teaching Certificate (OTC) program. Fortunately, since CSU is an OLC Institutional Member, they receive great volume discounts for Institute programs and OLC events, as well as access to research and a global network of like-minded academic professionals.

Dionne tells us, "There is no question that the OLC Online Teaching Certificate program has improved the quality of our programs."

Dionne says she chose the OTC program because it is based on OLC's Five Pillars of Quality Online Education: learning effectiveness, access, scale, faculty satisfaction, and student satisfaction. The focus on enhancing and strengthening skills to become more effective in the principles and practice of online teaching as well as the breadth of the program continues to be an important factor in making the move to support faculty development with OLC.

Three years and 35 CSU OTC graduates later, Dionne speaks proudly of the improved quality of CSU's online learning initiatives.

What makes her most proud? "When we started, I had to beg our faculty to take the program. Now, hearing those of us praising and employing the techniques and tools we've learned to use," she says with a laugh, "they are clamoring to enroll."

"There is no question the OLC Online Teaching Certificate program has improved the quality of our programs. In fact, our faculty are now clamoring to enroll."

*Dr. Dionne Curbeam,
Director of Instructional Technology,
Coppin State University*

What are 5 great reasons why CSU enrolled their faculty in the OLC OTC program?

1. Their online courses needed to be equal in quality to their on-ground counterparts.
2. OLC Institutional members benefit from volume enrollment discounts.
3. The OTC program is based on the OLC Pillars of Quality in Online Education.
4. CSU identified improvement in the quality of their online programs.
5. They have over 35 graduates of OTC program and more are in line to attend.



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