

NOMINATION FOR MoDLA LEADERSHIP AWARD 2012

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Carla Bradley, Coordinator of Online Instructional Development with OTC Online at Ozarks Technical Community College, is hereby nominated for the 2012 MoDLA Leadership Award. Her primary roles comprise overseeing online faculty development, updating and implementing the online course review processes, mentoring online faculty, and offering faculty development for online instructors. In her eight years as an adjunct English instructor, the past seven were dedicated to online instruction, which has offered her the opportunity to better individualize instruction and expand her teaching methods.

Carla completed the 2010 Sloan Consortium and Penn State Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning. Also in 2010, Carla received a Blackboard Catalyst Exemplary Course Award, an international honor recognizing stellar course design and delivery skills. Likewise, Carla was part of the team who received the 2012 Blackboard Catalyst Staff Development Gold Award.

Some of Carla's specific job accomplishments and responsibilities include the following:

- Oversee online faculty certification program for teaching online.
- Train and mentor online course reviewers in review process.
- Developed and refined criteria and guidelines for evaluating online course development and delivery.
- Prepared for Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation process for online course development and delivery.
- Introduced online faculty development workshops via Collaborate (formerly Wimba) to integrate effective online teaching strategies with use of online tools.
- Present online workshops on topics that include Audio Instructor Feedback, Online Instructor Presence, Online Instructor Feedback, Reviewing Online Courses, and Technology in Practice: Skype.
- Coordinate online sessions, including Innovation Showcase and Online Remote Adjunct Orientation.
- Mentor online faculty in the consistent implementation of effective practices in instructional design and online pedagogy.
- Model exemplary online course design and instruction by assisting faculty in properly formatting, presenting, and revising online content.

TESTIMONIALS

From the College Director of OTC Online (Ozarks Technical Community College):

“Carla Bradley is an exemplary instructional administrator who understands and upholds quality online teaching and learning standards. As Coordinator of Online Instructional Development, Carla has demonstrated exceptional leadership as well as an ability to produce substantial results despite limited resources. Not only has Carla completely overhauled OTC Online's quality assurance system to reinforce commonly accepted effective practices and faculty interests in eLearning, but she also invigorated the online college's entire faculty development program, introducing multiple new training courses, webinars, and workshops. Carla capitalized upon the opportunity to establish a new online instructional support unit, creating eLearning design and development processes that advance the quality and quantity of OTC Online.

As an employee, Carla is a low-maintenance go-to person with a high level of professionalism, self-motivation, and discipline. She possesses great attention to detail as well as a willingness to try new approaches, experiences, and tools. Carla's ability to identify and set goals is surpassed only by her record of consistent follow-through. As a supervisor, Carla is a supportive role model and collaborator who promotes a creative and project-based work environment. Her impeccable communication skills and positive attitude empower her to develop and maintain excellent working relationships with those she supervises.

No doubt, Carla's excellence as an eLearning administrator is grounded in award-winning online course design, development, and delivery skills and shown in the many conference presentations, webinars, and workshops she has given. She has deepened her expertise in both online education and leadership through participation in the Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning and a host of activities with the Sloan Consortium. In all of her work, Carla's advocacy of online education is unwavering and her enthusiasm contagious, reminding me time and again why I hired her and why I would recruit her for any eLearning position requiring vision, innovation, and drive.”

From the Lead Online Instructor of English (Ozarks Technical Community College):

“I would say that Carla has been one of the most thoughtful and eloquent advocates for online education and online students I know. She not only knows the current research, but she is able to explain the needs and requirements of online education in terms that make sense to people outside of the online community. For example, she makes the point that online education needs similar kinds of support to that of traditional education. Online courses may not need custodial staff to keep the building clean, but they do need staff support to keep master shells updated, course copy clean and up to date, and maintenance with the Learning Management System. Online education may have lower overhead in terms of running a building, but Carla doesn't let people forget that online students and faculty still need support.

As a Lead Online Instructor of English, I work with Carla on a variety of projects. Most recently, Carla has redesigned the course review process at OTC Online to include both development and delivery reviews, which I use to review online English courses. Both the review documents and

the review process are better than anything we have had or used before (or anything I have seen from other programs and institutions), and we are finally able to work toward benchmarks for quality improvement in our online college, which will greatly benefit our students.

I have attended several of Carla's professional development workshops for faculty, which she conducts through the collaborative platform (Wimba) on Blackboard, and I am impressed with how she makes these workshops interactive despite some of the challenges of working with Wimba and with faculty who may be hesitant to use this collaborative platform. She serves as a model for online instructors and online administrators.

She is also supportive of lead online instructors within OTC Online and provides guidance in the mentoring of adjunct faculty and the development of their own professional development sessions for their areas. I enjoy working with Carla because she doesn't do anything half way-- she is known for quality, but she is also highly collaborative and fun. We are lucky to have her working for OTC Online.”

From an Adjunct Online Instructor (Ozarks Technical Community College):

“Carla Bradley is an absolute joy to work with. She is extremely professional yet warm and caring. Her positive attitude shines through in everything she does. She balances supporting instructors and advocating for student needs beautifully. Carla's influence has made me a better online instructor, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with her!”