

2024 ILLINOIS ONLINE HIGHER EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM (IOHES)



NOVEMBER 8, 2024

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Central/Chicago

Info + Register

FREE

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**Illinois Online Higher
Education Symposium**

About the Event

The inaugural Towards Online Excellence: Illinois Online Higher Education Symposium is a free virtual event designed for educators, administrators, instructional designers, and technologists involved in online learning. Focused on Illinois institutions but open to all, the symposium was conceived by a group of Illinois higher education administrators aiming to foster deeper conversations in digital education. This year's themes include online pedagogy (generally), Title 2 changes, leadership in online programs, and the influence of AI in education. The event highlights Illinois thought leaders and invites nationwide participation for collaboration and innovation in online learning.

Organizers

This event is organized and coordinated by leaders from the following Illinois institutions:

- Western Illinois University
- University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- University of Illinois Springfield
- University of Illinois Chicago
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Northern Illinois University
- Illinois State University
- Governors State University
- Eastern Illinois University

The Schedule – In-Brief

The day is organized as follows:

9:00 a.m. – Kickoff with Keynote Address

[Register for the Keynote Session’s Webinar Feed](#)

Speaker: Ray Schroeder

Title: Artificial Intelligence in Online Learning

The keynote event is sponsored by D2L Brightspace

D2L

Learn about D2L LUMI: Where AI Meets Education

10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Main Symposium Sessions

[Register for Access to the Main Conference Zoom Meeting](#)

- Three sessions will run concurrently in three break rooms. Sessions will cover four themes:
 - Theme 1: Artificial Intelligence
 - Theme 2: Leadership
 - Theme 3: Pedagogy & Inclusion
 - Theme 4: Assessment & Accessibility

The Logo



Illinois Online Higher Education Symposium

AI designed our logo to capture the essence of the symposium.

Cardinal: As the state bird of Illinois, the cardinal represents vibrancy, leadership, and a strong, distinct presence in the online learning environment.

Violet Flower: The violet, the state flower of Illinois, signifies growth, learning, and the nurturing of knowledge.

Butterflies: Monarch butterflies, recognized as the state insect, represent transformation, resilience, and continuous growth—key attributes in online education.

Graduation Cap: The cliché cap, placed above the cardinal, reinforces the theme of academic achievement and success.

Pencil: The pencil reflects the ongoing pedagogical traditions of knowledge creation and collaboration in a digital world.

Laptop: At the center of the design, the laptop signifies the digital nature of the symposium and the critical role that technology plays in advancing higher education. Everything emerging from the laptop underscores the online format of the event and the dynamic nature of virtual learning environments.

Sponsors

The symposium would not have been possible without the following sponsorship and support.

Violet Sponsor

[D2L Brightspace](#) is the keynote sponsor. Their generous contribution has allowed us to bring a prominent thought leader to anchor the event and to ensure we can provide interpreter services, ensuring an inclusive experience for all.



Cardinal Sponsor

[SIU Extended Campus](#) made a generous contribution to the event to support interpreter services throughout the day and to provide financial awards to top presentations.



Red & White Sponsor

[Risepoint](#)'s generous contribution to the event ensures we can provide financial support to award-winning presentations.



Monarch Support

This event is a multi-institution event. [The Center for Teaching Excellence at SIU](#) has provided administrative and technology support to ensure the symposium's success.



Keynote Event

**CLICK TO REGISTER FOR THE KEYNOTE SESSION –
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ONLINE LEARNING**



Ray Schroeder |

UPCEA Senior Fellow

A nationally respected and connected leader in higher education online learning, Ray Schroeder is a senior fellow of UPCEA, the online and professional education association, and professor emeritus at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS).

With 50 years on the faculty and administration at the Urbana and Springfield campuses of the University of Illinois, Ray is the recipient of numerous national awards and citations for individual excellence and leadership from many associations and entities, including the Sloan Consortium (OLC), US Distance Learning Association, American Journal of Distance Education, Illinois Council for Continuing Higher

Education, University of Wisconsin, and University of Illinois. In 2023, Ray received the honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree from UIS in 2023 and became the first recipient of the UPCEA Leadership Award for the Advancement of Digital Learning (now renamed the Ray Schroeder Leadership Award for the Advancement of Digital Learning).

He is the author of book chapters, articles, widely read blogs, and social media feeds on news and research in online learning/educational technology. Ray is a noted speaker, consultant, researcher, and author on online learning, emerging educational technologies, and technology-enhanced learning topics.

[Ray Schroeder's Personal Website](#)

Keynote: Artificial Intelligence in Online Learning

Online learning continues to be the preferred mode of delivery of higher learning to adult and professional students. The advent of Artificial Intelligence tools and agents have become available to enhance the delivery of learning online. They promise to make our online programs more efficient, effective and flexible for lifelong learning. We will examine the opportunities that these advanced, smart technologies offer and the potential they provide to further extend and expand our online learning programs.

Keynote Sponsor: D2L Brightspace

The keynote session, including ASL interpreter services, is sponsored by D2L Brightspace.

D2L

D2L is transforming the way the world learns, helping learners achieve more than they dreamed possible. Working closely with customers all over the world, D2L is on a mission to make learning more inspiring, engaging and human. Find out how D2L helps transform lives and delivers outstanding learning outcomes in K-12, higher education and business at www.D2L.com.

**CLICK TO REGISTER FOR THE KEYNOTE SESSION –
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ONLINE LEARNING**

Main Symposium Schedule

Instructions for Joining and Navigating Main Symposium Event

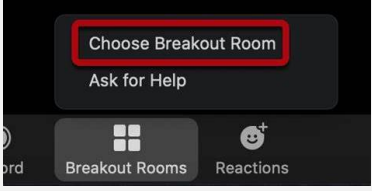
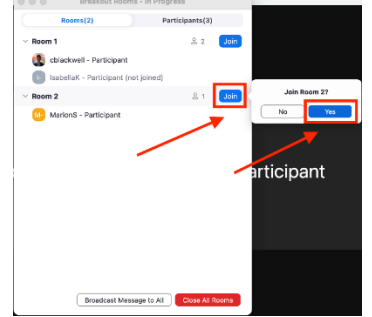
To join and engage in the main symposium, you will need to do the following:

1. Register for the Main Conference Zoom Meeting.
2. Join the main conference on the day of the event.
3. Review the breakout room schedule to choose events of interest.
4. Join the appropriate breakout room at the scheduled time.

**CLICK TO REGISTER FOR THE MAIN SYMPOSIUM –
ALL BREAKOUT ROOMS AVAILABLE HERE**

How to join a meeting breakout room

You will be allowed to self-select and join breakout rooms during the symposium. You will be able enter and leave breakout rooms freely. Follow the steps below.

Steps	Explanation	Image Reference
Step 1	Click Breakout Rooms in your meeting controls (located towards bottom of screen). This will display the list of open breakout rooms created by the host.	
Step 2	Hover your pointer over the number to the right of the breakout room you wish to join, click Join, then confirm by clicking Join.	
Step 3	Repeat to join other breakout rooms or click Leave Room to return to the main lobby.	

[Need more help joining, leaving, or asking for help in breakout rooms?](#)

Breakout Room 1: AI, Assessment & Accessibility

This track is sponsored by [SIU Extended Campus](#).

Time	Session Details	Presenters & Institutions
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Presentation: Building a Culture of Accessibility and Inclusion <i>Theme: Assessment & Accessibility</i>	Scott Thesen Judith Keigher Governors State University
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Virtual Roundtable: Adapting Assessments for the AI Era: Strategies and Opportunities <i>Theme: AI</i>	Emily Rush Peg Checchi Daniel Martin Laura Smith Rush University
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Panel Discussion: Navigating Title II within the Illinois System: Insights, Innovations, and Opportunities in Higher Education <i>Theme: Assessment & Accessibility</i>	Eden Haycraft Smothers Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Vance S. Martin University of Illinois System Agnes Herget University of Illinois Chicago Michele Gribbins Carey Applegate University of Illinois Springfield
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Presentation: Authentic Assessment in the Age of AI <i>Theme: AI</i>	Michael Gillespie Eastern Illinois University
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Presentation: Quality Assurance Tools for Accessible Canvas Content <i>Theme: Assessment & Accessibility</i>	Emily Boles Carrie Levin Taylor Lester University of Illinois Springfield
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Virtual Roundtable: Using AI to Enhance Accessibility: A Presentation with a Round Table Discussion <i>Theme: AI</i>	Scott Thesen Judith Keigher Governors State University

Breakout Room 2: Pedagogy & Inclusion

Time	Session Details	Presenters & Institutions
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p>Presentation:</p> <p>Leveraging Meaningful, Multimodal Assessment to Empower Learning Amidst the Rise of Generative AI</p> <p><i>Theme: AI, Assessment & Accessibility</i></p>	<p>Amanda Hirsch Northern Illinois University</p>
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p>Exploring the Experiences of Black/Indigenous/People of Color (BIPOC) Students in an Online Graduate Program: Implications for Creating Inclusive Online Learning Spaces</p> <p><i>Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion</i></p>	<p>Sharon Lee Hyun-Sook Kang Marlee Bunch Shannon Anderson University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</p>
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	<p>Presentation:</p> <p>Strategic Technology Adoption: Enhancing Support for Online Faculty and Learners Through Case Studies of Yellowdig and Examind</p> <p><i>Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion</i></p>	<p>Adam King Jean Starobin Julia Sabin University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</p>
1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p>Documenting Success Among Students who are Underrepresented in STEM in Online STEM College Courses</p> <p><i>Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion</i></p>	<p>Michelle Perry Nigel Bosch Amos Jeng Destiny Williams-Dobosz University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</p>
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p>Excellence in Action: Secrets from Online Teaching Award Winners</p> <p><i>Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion</i></p>	<p>Megan Holt Northern Illinois University</p>
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. [Cancelled due to our scheduling error.]	<p>Presentation slides (click to view, contact with questions): Cooperative Learning in an Online Asynchronous Statistics Course - Illinois 2024 - Google Slides</p> <p><i>Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion</i></p>	<p>Vimal Rao University of Illinois Nicki May University of Minnesota</p>

Breakout Room 3: Leadership & Collaboration

Time	Session Details	Presenters & Institutions
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Presentation: Leading by Example: Student Success with Your Online Course Design <i>Theme: Leadership & Collaboration</i>	Julie Brines Western Illinois University
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Virtual Roundtable: Fostering Collaboration among COLOs, Academic Excellence Centers, and Instructional Support <i>Theme: Leadership & Collaboration</i>	Craig Engstrom Susan Wegmann Southern Illinois University Carbondale
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Panel Discussion: A Tale of 3 COLOs: Leading Online Education at Public, Private and Community Colleges <i>Theme: Leadership & Collaboration</i>	Anthony Piña Illinois State University Rick Lindquist Illinois Wesleyan University Kate Herald Browne Heartland Community College
1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Presentation: Collaborative Innovation in Online Education <i>Theme: Leadership & Collaboration</i>	Jennifer Banda Kasey Murphy Alex Sparks Elissa Mitchell Debra Korte University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Virtual Roundtable: Advancing Nurse Anesthesia Education: Transitioning to Competency-Based Curriculum <i>Theme: Leadership & Collaboration</i>	Lauren Douglass Jenna Tebbenkamp Leah Baecht Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

An Asynchronous Experience

Scott Thesen and his team from Governors State University have put together an interactive experience. Click on items to interact.

Description: Using principles from graphic design and UDL, best practices for creating documents and learning resources in online courses are shared via the links below. Topics include proper use of fonts and colors, alt-text on images, and video captions. Utilize MS Office applications to create visually appealing and accessible documents. Learn best practices for multimedia and accessibility in online course materials, including video.

- [Full presentation video](#) (presented initially at FSI in May 2023)
- [Poster PDF](#), with QR codes to the full presentation video and individual topic videos below
- [Individual topic playlist](#)
- Individual topic video links (in order):
 - [Color](#)
 - [Contrast](#)
 - [Fonts](#)
 - [Text Styles](#)
 - [Alt-Text and Titles](#)

Connect with [Scott B. Thesen via LinkedIn](#)

References/Useful Resources

- [The cultural meanings of different colors](#)
- [Coolers color picker](#)
- [WebAIM contrast checker](#)
- [Typography and fonts](#)
- [Lorem ipsum placeholder text](#)
- [Microsoft Accessibility Checker tutorial](#)
- [Adobe Acrobat Accessibility Checker tutorial](#)
- [UDL Guidelines](#)

Schedule With Session Details

Breakout Room 1: AI, Assessment & Accessibility

10:30 – 11:15 | Building a Culture of Accessibility and Inclusion

Theme: Assessment & Accessibility

Scott Thesen, Judith Keigher, Governors State University

The presentation will first describe GSU and define the needs for addressing accessibility and inclusion in all course formats. Then CTL will be described and the DEI mini-grant program and process. Then CTL staff training efforts will be outlined, and then the process and results of implementing training will be described, including creating cohorts of faculty participants and incentivizing participation using certificates of completion, Credly badges, and stipends for up to 3 faculty participants. Stipends were awarded based on a rubric developed using [QM Standard 8](#) and [UDL Guidelines for guidance](#).

11:30 – 12:15 | Adapting Assessments for the AI Era: Strategies and Opportunities

Theme: AI

Emily Rush, Peg Checci, Daniel Martin, Laura Smith, Rush University

This roundtable addresses "AI Influences on Online Learning," "Visionary Leadership in Online Education," and "Supporting Online Faculty, Students, and Technologies." It presents innovative strategies for adapting assessments in the AI era, demonstrating forward-thinking leadership. By offering practical examples that leverage AI in assessment design, the session supports faculty and students in navigating the evolving landscape of online education and emerging technologies.

12:30 – 1:15 | Navigating Title II within the Illinois System: Insights, Innovations, and Opportunities in Higher Education

Theme: Assessment & Accessibility

Eden Haycraft Smothers

Sangeeth Gopalakrishnan, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Vance S. Martin, University of Illinois System

Agnes Herget, University of Illinois Chicago

Michelle Gribbins, Carey Applegate

University of Illinois Springfield

The panel is linked to various symposium themes, such as supporting online faculty, students, and technologies during the transition to Title II compliance. While addressing the challenges of aligning institutional resources with Title II, the panel will emphasize the opportunities this legislation presents for enhancing equitable learning experiences. Additionally, it will showcase leadership strategies for navigating Title II compliance within the University of Illinois system. This panel will feature representatives from each of the three University of Illinois universities who work in online education, alongside a system-level representative. They will discuss Illinois' strategy for achieving Title II compliance and actively involve audience institutions to gather diverse perspectives.

1:30 – 2:15 | Authentic Assessment in the Age of AI

Theme: AI

Michael Gillespie, Eastern Illinois University

This presentation will cover the use of authentic assessments in the age of AI, including examples that engage learners as well as work with (not against) the reality of artificial intelligence.

2:30 – 3:15 | Quality Assurance Tools for Accessible Canvas Content

Theme: Assessment and Accessibility

Emily Boles, Carrie Levin, Taylor Lester

University of Illinois Springfield

This presentation will examine the progression of instructor training on accessibility at UIS. It will begin with a brief 3-minute overview of the unit's role and approach to online learning and faculty development to provide context. Following this, the presentation will outline the collaborative process for reviewing courses with faculty to ensure accessibility. Additionally, it will introduce accessible syllabus templates available in Word and HTML formats through DesignPlus. The session will then discuss the use of UDOIT for course scanning and remediation within Canvas, noting its limitations and advantages. Lastly, it will highlight the partnership with the Digital Accessibility Remediation Team, focusing on efforts to improve accessibility in captioning and document preparation.

3:30 – 4:15 | Using AI to Enhance Accessibility: A Presentation with a Round Table Discussion

Theme: AI

Scott Thesen, Judith Keigher, Governors State University

AI is already integrated into numerous educational tools. To enhance course effectiveness, it's essential to prioritize accessibility in both materials and activities. Addressing accessibility goes

beyond assisting students with specific needs; it supports diverse learning preferences for all students. This session will explore digital tools with AI features that support accessibility at GSU, along with guidelines for creating inclusive and accessible learning environments, including the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). A roundtable discussion will follow to encourage further dialogue.

Breakout Room 2: Pedagogy & Inclusion

10:30 – 11:15 | Leveraging Meaningful, Multimodal Assessment to Empower Learning Amidst the Rise of Generative AI

Theme: AI, Assessment & Accessibility

Amanda Hirsch, Northern Illinois University

The presentation primarily aligns with the theme of "AI Influences on Online Learning – Practices to use AI" by delving into how meaningful, multimodal assessment strategies can effectively combat inappropriate use of AI in online education. The presentation aims to contribute to the ongoing conversation about leveraging AI responsibly in digital learning environments.

11:30 – 12:15 | Exploring the Experiences of Black/Indigenous/People of Color (BIPOC) Students in an Online Graduate Program: Implications for Creating Inclusive Online Learning Spaces

Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion

Sharon Lee, Hyun-Sook Kang, Marlee Bunch, Shannon Anderson, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

This panel will discuss preliminary findings and recommendations of a mixed methods study, which sought to examine the experiences of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students enrolled in an online graduate degree (Master of Education and Doctor of Education) program at the University of Illinois. Through survey data and semi-structured interviews with students and recent alumni, the study examines BIPOC students' engagement in the online program along emotional, social, and academic realms.

12:30 – 1:15 | Strategic Technology Adoption: Enhancing Support for Online Faculty and Learners Through Case Studies of Yellowdig and Examind

Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion

Adam King, Jean Starobin, Julia Sabin
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The presentation aligns with the theme of "Supporting Online Faculty, Students and Technologies" by focusing on the development of adoption plans that supports stakeholders (students, staff, and faculty). The proposal emphasizes the importance of choosing technologies

that are mapped to the unit/program/institution's commitments, priorities, goals, and required outcomes. The presentation will demonstrate how institutions can design technology adoption plans and processes to support the successful use of technology while positively impacting their students, staff, and faculty. Using two examples of technology (Yellowdig and Examind), the presenters will showcase how the choice of the technologies addressed specific gaps while also ensuring adoption plans intended outcomes.

1:30 – 2:15 | Documenting Success Among Students who are Underrepresented in STEM in Online STEM College Courses

Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion

Michelle Perry, Nigel Bosch, Amos Jeng, Destiny Williams-Dobosz, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

This presentation will explore several studies in which our research team investigated how college students underrepresented in STEM disciplines navigate online STEM courses. The focus will be on the course discussion forums, a key area for building classroom community, and how these students engage in ways that contribute to their success in STEM. The discussion will also highlight the barriers and challenges these students often face in traditional in-person STEM courses and how the online environment may offer new opportunities for overcoming them.

2:30 – 3:15 | Excellence in Action: Secrets from Online Teaching Award Winners

Theme: Pedagogy & Inclusion

Megan Holt, Northern Illinois University

A panel presentation featuring past recipients of NIU's Excellence in Online Teaching Award will explore several key themes. First, the discussion will focus on **Online Pedagogy – Examples of Engaging Practice**, where award recipients will share their strategies for creating interactive and supportive online learning environments. The panel will then address **Supporting Online Faculty, Students, and Technologies**, highlighting the methods used by award winners to meaningfully engage students and improve learning outcomes. Finally, the panel will examine **Innovative Hybrid/HyFlex Teaching and Learning Strategies**, showcasing how faculty integrate various instructional approaches to meet the diverse needs of students. Together, these themes underscore the commitment to excellence and innovation in online education recognized by the award.

Breakout Room 3: Leadership & Collaboration

10:30 – 11:15 | Leading by Example: Student Success with Your Online Course Design

Theme: Leadership & Collaboration

Julie Brines, Western Illinois University

This presentation will introduce participants to the design elements of an online course that has been lauded as a gold standard by colleagues and students. Participants will be led through the course design, shown examples of course materials and navigation, and have the opportunity to share examples of the best practices they have used or learned about from colleagues. An example of a module overview has been provided although different ones may be used in the presentation.

11:30 – 12:15 | Fostering Collaboration among COLOs, Academic Excellence Centers, and Instructional Support

Theme: Leadership & Collaboration

Craig Engstrom, Susan Wegmann, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The authors of this proposal, one being the Director of Online Learning and the other being the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, have developed a strong and productive working relationship over the past few years, leading to numerous positive outcomes, such as higher-quality courses, increased course reviews, enhancements in technology, budgetary savings, and improved workflow efficiency. This session will share key lessons learned and practical tips, while also inviting other COLOs and directors of academic centers to either share their successes or seek advice on strengthening relationships. Although the session primarily targets leadership, instructors and instructional designers are encouraged to participate by discussing how these relationships impact their work and how they have benefited from successful collaborations. This session aligns closely with the themes of visionary leadership, supporting online faculty, and leadership strategies for online learning excellence.

12:30 – 1:15 | A Tale of 3 COLOs: Leading Online Education at Public, Private and Community Colleges

Theme: Leadership & Collaboration

Anthony Piña, Illinois State University

Rick Lindquist, Illinois Wesleyan University

Kate Herald Browne, Heartland Community College

This panel presentation aligns with two of the conference themes: Visionary Leadership in Online Education and Leadership Strategies for Online Learning Excellence. The co-presenters aim to highlight the similarities, differences, challenges and opportunities of leading and

administering online education at three institutions, all representing different sectors of higher education (a community college, a private university and a public university).

1:30 – 2:15 | Collaborative Innovation in Online Education

Theme: Leadership & Collaboration

Jennifer Banda, Kasey Murphy, Alex Sparks, Elissa Mitchell, Debra Korte

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The proposed presentation aligns with several of the conference's themes, including *Leading by Example: Visionary Leadership in Online Education*, *Designing for Online Learning: Pathway Building for Multi-modal Learning* (such as Traditional, Workplace Learning, Accelerated Programs, and Micro-credentials), and *Supporting Online Faculty, Students, and Technologies*. The strongest connection is with the *Designing for Online Learning* theme, as the presentation will highlight the collaborative efforts of a team comprising an administrator, faculty consultant, and three instructional designers who worked alongside discipline-specific faculty and staff teams to develop Coursera courses and five new online graduate certificates, all aimed at adult learners.

2:30 – 3:15 | Advancing Nurse Anesthesia Education: Transitioning to Competency-Based Curriculum

Theme: Leadership & Collaboration

Lauren Douglass, Jenna Tebbenkamp, Leah Baecht, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

This presentation will focus on designing online learning. This process involves leveraging multi-modal approaches to make education more accessible. By providing various formats such as videos, interactive activities, and written materials, educators can accommodate diverse learning preferences and enhance accessibility. Furthermore, aligning the principles of a competency-based curriculum with engaging online pedagogical practices, educational programs can create a robust, flexible, and student-centered learning environment that prepares nurse anesthesia students for their future professional roles.

Presenter Biographies

Shannon Anderson

Dr. Shannon Anderson is a Senior Manager of Equity & Student Conduct at Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. Her interests are educational equity and anti-racism in pre-k through twelve schools. Dr. Anderson earned her Ed.D. online at the University of Illinois.

Carey Applegate

Carey Applegate, Ph.D., is the Director of Digital Accessibility at the University of Illinois Springfield. In this role, she leads digital accessibility efforts across campus with the Office of Digital Accessibility and the Digital Accessibility Remediation Team. She also works with system office and the other two campuses to coordinate system-wide digital accessibility plans. She has been teaching online since 2009, and she has a background in instructional design and educational program management.

Leah Baecht

Dr. Leah Baecht, CRNA, DNP is an Assistant Professor and the Program Director for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Nurse Anesthesia Educational Program. She has taught clinical and didactic courses in Nurse Anesthesia for the past 7 years.

Jennifer Banda

Jennifer Banda is the teaching and learning specialist for the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She works with faculty to develop online educational material and courses. She enjoys finding creative solutions and designing engaging educational assets that are accessible to learners. Jennifer previously worked as a program coordinator for Illinois Extension and was a high school agriculture teacher.

Emily Boles

Emily joined COLRS in 2006. She earned a B.A. in English from Illinois College and an M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At UIS, Emily works closely with faculty to promote effective practices in pedagogy, instructional design, and accessibility for online, blended, and hyflex learning. She is a skilled educational technologist and LMS administrator. Recently, Emily has led the COLRS faculty development efforts on generative artificial intelligence and served on the U of I System Task Force for Generative AI in teaching and learning.

Nigel Bosch

Nigel Bosch, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the School of Information Sciences and the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research concerns machine learning, algorithmic fairness, and human-centered computing, particularly in educational contexts.

Julie Brines

Julie Brines is an assistant professor in the Department of Counselor Education and College Student Personnel at Western Illinois University. Her academic research interests include the retention and persistence of students, most specifically related to their relationship with faculty. She earned a BA in Communication, an MS in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration, an MS in College Student Personnel, and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Instructional Technology from Western Illinois University. Her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration is from Illinois State University

Marlee Bunch

Dr. Marlee Bunch is the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Program Director for the University of Illinois. Her research examines the lives and experiences of Black female educators in Mississippi between 1954-1971. Dr. Bunch earned her Ed.D. online at the University of Illinois.

Peg Checchi

Peg Checchi, M.Ed., Instructional Designer, Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Rush University

Lauren Douglass

Dr. Lauren Douglass, CRNA, DNP is an Assistant Professor, Clinical Liaison, and Student Success Coordinator for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Nurse Anesthesia Educational Program. She has taught clinical and didactic courses in Nurse Anesthesia for the past 5 years.

Craig Engstrom

Craig L. Engstrom, Ph.D., CPTD, is the director of Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Center for Teaching Excellence, a 2024 D2L Brightspace Excellence Award recipient, and an associate professor of communication. He is a Certified Professional in Talent Development (Association for Talent Development), Certified Master Online Leader and Administrator, and Certified Microsoft Innovative Educator.

Michael Gillespie

Michael David Gillespie, Ph.D. is the Director of the Faculty Development and Innovation Center and Professor of Sociology at Eastern Illinois University. At the FDIC, Dr. Gillespie strives to work alongside his peers and share how teaching and learning are not opposing forces but are incredibly entwined. Teaching is a form of leadership - and at the end of the day, it is simply about helping another human being to learn. Dr. Gillespie's research interests in the scholarship of teaching and learning focuses on experiential and active learning, alternative assessment strategies, student learning objectives, statistical literacy and quantitative reasoning.

Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan

Assistant Dean for Online and Learning Innovation for the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). In this position, she envisions innovative academic programs, oversees online program operations, facilitates online faculty training and support, and advocates for online student success. She currently serves as co-chair of the Online Learning Advisory Committee at UIUC, a group charged by the provost's office to enhance online education on campus.

Eden Haycraft Smothers

Eden Haycraft Smothers serves as the Director for Online Graduate Programs at the School of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since 2019, she has played an active role in online education advancement at the Urbana-Champaign campus. For the past two years, Eden has also served as Co-Chair of Urbana-Champaign's Online Learning Advisory Committee, appointed by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

Kate Herald Brown

Dr. Kate Herald Browne teaches people how to tell stories that change the world for good. She uses her background in storytelling research as the basis of her work in online learning design. As the Director of Online Learning and Instructional Technologies at Heartland Community College, Kate leads a team that supports the campus makerspace, VR program, digital media studios, and learning management system.

Agnes Herget

Agnes Herget is the Senior Director of Innovation and Online Program Development at the University of Illinois Chicago Extended Campus. She spearheads the campus initiative to expand online degree programs for both undergraduate and graduate students. Collaborating with academic units across the institution, Agnes oversees the planning, development, and management of these programs. She leads cross-functional teams through all stages of program development and launch, including market assessment, curriculum development, governance approvals, course development, marketing, admissions, recruitment, and retention planning.

Amanda Hirsch

At NIU, Amanda researches emerging pedagogies and technologies and offers high-level programs and consultations to faculty, teaching staff and teaching assistants on basic to advanced teaching effectiveness and technology integration. She also offers classroom observation services and provides confidential feedback and support for improving teaching. Amanda has also been teaching college English (composition and literature) for 16 years. She has taught online synchronously and asynchronously, in person, and in hybrid modalities.

Megan Holt

Megan, an Online Teaching Coordinator in NIU's CITL department, supports faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants in online course design and pedagogical practices. She offers consultations, reviews Quality Essentials courses, and helps plan and coordinate large-scale online teaching professional development activities, integrating digital tools to enhance learning experiences.

Amos Jeng

Amos Jeng is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign. His research investigates how students of diverse socio-cultural backgrounds develop connections and provide mutual support in online and in-person STEM learning environments.

Judith Keigher

Judith has been a higher education instructional designer at GSU since 2021. With over 25 years of experience in K-12 and higher education with technology and training, Judith has had the pleasure of being involved in multiple high-impact projects, including the development of training workshops for faculty to enhance their online courses and supporting online teaching tools. Judith holds a master's degree from Olivet Nazarene University and is a proud alumnus of Governors State University.

Adam King

Adam King is the Sr Assoc Director of Teaching & Learning Technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Gies College of Business. Adam has 20 years of experience in business education and entrepreneurial settings. He joined Gies in 2017, working in instructional design and learner support. Today, Adam leads efforts to leverage new technologies that further the success of Gies learners, faculty, and staff. Gies is unique in its at-scale approach to high-quality affordable education.

Debra Korte

Dr. Debra Korte is the assistant dean for learning innovation in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Korte's role is to generate new ways of designing and offering transformative ACES educational content for learners across the lifespan situated in classrooms, companies, and communities. She connects people to each other and to opportunities, leveraging resources across campus to innovate and diversify the ACES portfolio of educational offerings. Korte is an award-winning instructor in both online and traditional settings as a Teaching Associate Professor in the Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications (ALEC) Program, and serves on several campus committees that strive to enhance the educational experience for students and promote academic success.

Sharon Lee

Dr. Sharon Lee is a Teaching Assistant Professor in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois. Her interests are in diversity and equity in higher education and online student engagement.

Taylor Lester

Taylor joined COLRS in July 2023 after working as a high school English teacher for eight years. As an educator, she focused on culturally relevant teaching and anti-oppression work to best serve populations of diverse students. Additionally, she worked as a teacher of college-bound high school students, helping them successfully transition from high school to higher education. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Secondary Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Carrie Levin

Carrie joined COLRS in July 2005. She earned her B.F.A. degree in Theatre at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her Masters in Dance-Movement Therapy/Counseling at Columbia College Chicago. At COLRS, Carrie works with online faculty development, MOOC development, and support for COLRS research activities. She has authored and co-authored proceedings papers and book chapters on a variety of topics related to online learning and has presented at numerous national and regional conferences. In addition to her work with COLRS, Carrie is an adjunct instructor at UIS in the Educational Leadership department. Carrie holds the Professional Certificate in Online Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Rick Lindquist

Rick Lindquist is Chief Information Officer at Illinois Wesleyan University. He is also a member of the University's Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Daniel Martin

Daniel Martin, BSCS, MBA, Instructional Technologist, Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Rush University

Vance S. Martin

Vance S. Martin Ph.D. is the Executive Policy Advisor for Accessibility for the University of Illinois System, Board of Trustees Office. In this role, he works with the system offices, as well as all three campuses to advise and assist with accessibility issues and needs. Previously Dr. Martin served as the Campus Accessibility Specialist for the University of Illinois at Springfield, from 2017 to 2020.

Nicki May

Nicole (Nicki) May is an instructional designer and doctoral student in higher education at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She supports online program development and course design in the College of Education and Human Development. Her professional interests include student engagement in online settings and inclusive pedagogy.

Elissa Mitchell

Elissa Thomann Mitchell, PhD, is a Teaching Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is also the Faculty Fellow for Teaching and Learning for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and a consultant for ACES Online. Elissa has 20 years of teaching experience in higher education and has been teaching online since 2013. In addition to teaching her own courses, she enjoys working with faculty to improve and expand online courses and programs.

Kasey Murphy

Kasey Murphy, B.S., M.A.Ed., is an Instructional Designer for the College of ACES at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. In this role, her work with the ACES Online team has led to the development of innovative online graduate degrees across multiple LMS platforms to provide opportunities for non-traditional learners. Kasey enjoys designing engaging and innovative online course solutions and studying how learners are motivated to interact within eLearning courses. Previously, Kasey was an Online Learning Coordinator for Fontbonne University and an Instructor at St. Louis Community College.

Michelle Perry

Michelle Perry, Ph.D., is a Professor of Educational Psychology and an affiliate of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her work explores instructional, social, cultural, and discursive contexts that support learning of STEM concepts.

Anthony Piña

Dr. Anthony A. Piña is the Chief Online Learning Officer at Illinois State University. He has been a consultant to Fortune 500 corporations, small businesses, local government agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard, and a digital learning consultant to colleges and universities across the country. He has overseen the development of fully online programs from associate to doctorate. He has published eight books and more than 100 additional publications in distance education, educational technology, and management.

Vimal Rao

Dr. V.N. Vimal Rao is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics and Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois. He has designed 5 online courses in statistics and taught these courses over 40 combined times. Specifically, Dr. Rao has focused on adapting principles of cooperative learning theory to asynchronous remote environments and blending asynchronous elements into standard in-person classes.

Emily Rush

Emily Rush, PhD, Instructional Designer and Team Lead for AI Development, Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Rush University

Julia Sabin

Julia Sabin, MEd in Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology, works with Educational Innovation and Teaching and Learning units at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Gies College of Business. Julia has over 20 years of experience in technology implementation and process optimization in various settings. She joined Gies in 2022, supporting various teaching and learning initiatives. Today, Julia is working with Educational Innovation and Teaching and Learning units and supporting the research, testing, and implementation of innovative solutions for teaching and learning, along with process improvement, training, and business technology implementation.

Laura Smith

Laura Smith, MA, Instructional Designer, Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Rush University.

Hyun-Sook Kang

Dr. Hyun-Sook Kang is an Associate Professor in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois. Her interests are internationalization of education and online education.

Alex Sparks

Alex Sparks is the Visiting Learning and Innovation Specialist for the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is dedicated to crafting innovative learning experiences that resonate with diverse audiences. With a background as a curriculum consultant and designer for Illinois Extension and an adjunct assistant professor for the College of ACES, Alex's passion for enhancing learner experiences is a significant asset. She holds a master's degree in Agriculture Leadership, Education, and Communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Alex's areas of proficiency include project management, e-learning tools, and effective pedagogical strategies. At the University of Illinois, she assists in the development of graduate certificates and supports instructors across the College of ACES, collaborating closely with faculty

members to design immersive instructional content that draws from the rich knowledge and culture offered by the institution.

Jean Starobin

Dr. Jean E. Starobin currently serves as an Online Program Consultant at the Gies College of Business, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, she excels in learner engagement strategies and program development, with a focus on expanding access and fostering a sense of belonging. With a Doctorate in Education from the University of Florida, her expertise lies in student success, engagement, and online learning. She is committed to advancing educational practices and fostering inclusive communities.

Jenna Tebbenkamp

Dr Jenna Tebbenkamp, CRNA, DNP is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Program Director for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Nurse Anesthesia Educational Program. She has taught clinical and didactic courses in Nurse Anesthesia for the past 4 years.

Scott Thesen

Scott has been a higher education instructional designer and adjunct teaching graphic design software at GSU since 2019. Previously, Scott taught K-12 STEAM and computer science as an adjunct at Triton College since 2007. Before changing careers, Scott was a graphic designer and web developer for 10 years. Scott holds two master's degrees from Dominican University in K-12 teaching and instructional technology and is ABD in an online PhD program in educational technology from Northern Illinois University.

Susan Wegmann

Susan Wegmann is the Executive Director of the SIUC Global Campus, managing SIU's 20 sites across the US as well as supporting the development and quality improvement of all their online programs. She has taught at the college level for 25+ years and estimates she's had over 4,500 students during that time. Her roles in higher education include tenure-earned faculty member and Professor, Dean of the College of Education, Director of Programs and Research for an international reading center, and Associate Dean of Digital Learning and Innovation. Her interests as of late are the roles of AI in higher education and project management of institution-wide initiatives.

Destiny Williams-Dobosz

Destiny Williams-Dobosz is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her research explores how, why, and under what conditions minoritized students seek academic help in online and in-person STEM courses.

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