

Developing Online Facilitation Expertise -- Views From The Catbird Seat.

How do you prepare faculty and instructors who have been trained in a traditional face-to-face classroom environment to become effective in a variety of online environments? Four different organizations will present their diverse visions of how they prepare faculty and instructors to face the rigor of online education.

The Concord Consortium has been dealing with this issue for the past ten years, first in preparing instructors to lead online professional development for secondary math and science teachers, and then in preparing classroom teachers to be faculty in the Virtual High School, and most recently for two other online professional development projects. Concord Consortium staff offer online courses in course design and online facilitation and have written books on the topics.

The North Central Regional Educational Lab/Learning Point Associates is one of the 10 US Department of Education Regional Educational Laboratories. They have been offering online training on various of their educational content to serve their client base, and have recently been offering online facilitation courses.

PBS TeacherLine has a major grant from the US Department of Education to offer online professional development courses. Those courses have been distributed across the nation by 32 PBS Member Stations, and to enable this to proceed, TeacherLine has developed its own online instructor program which has prepared over 500 online facilitators.

University of Virginia has recently begun to offer a certificate program in online education. The program is, of course, offered entirely online, and is designed to prepare online instructors and course designers.

Panelists:

Raymond M. Rose, Vice President, Concord Consortium

Dr Robert Blomeyer, Senior Program Associate, Center for Technology, NCREL

Robert Ramsdell, Senior Program Manager, PBS TeacherLine

Dr. Zahrl Shoeny, Curry School, University of Virginia, USA

Organization of Panel:

Each panelist will make a brief (5 minute) presentation to set the basic understanding of the different issues. The panelists will begin interacting and invite the audience into the discussion. The result is expected to be that the issues raised will bring the audience into the discussion as equal participants, rather than as a chance to interact with a set of experts