

***“Distance Learning: Bringing the Adult Online Education Experience Up A Notch”***

**Submitted by: Joel Greenman**

**Objective:**

Delivering an effective educational program within a distance learning format places challenges on both the instructor and students. Adult learners, especially adults employed in high ranking corporate positions, expect specific gains from online delivery systems and demand well defined learning strategies which address their unique needs. This presentation defines effective and proven strategies from course development through ongoing course management. It emphasizes the unique demands of online adult learners, and their challenges. It also focuses on the demands placed on an online instructor who needs to address and anticipate student challenges. **The objectives of this proposal are to offer effective course development and teaching strategies for online instructors who teach adult learners simultaneously engaged in corporate positions. Critical factors in being successful as an online instructor.**

- 1. Motivate interested instructors to pursue online education.**
- 2. Present a format for success in transitioning from offline to online education.**
- 3. Identify critical factors in delivering a successful online course.**
- 4. Defining the profile of an online student.**
- 5. Developing a comprehensive syllabus for online education.**
- 6. Developing a “dynamic” curricula based on student diversity.**
- 7. Establishing specific guidelines to promote student success.**
- 8. Understanding the practices and policies of the online institution.**
- 9. The importance of student feedback.**
- 10. Meeting the distinct needs of a diversity of online students.**
- 11. Maximizing student retention through course design and instructional practices.**
- 12. Maintaining student participation in weekly online discussions.**
- 13. Establishing and maintaining a faculty presence in the online classroom.**
- 14. Bringing students back from the brink of a potential drop.**
- 15. An instructional paradigm shift: What worked in the classroom may not work online!**
- 16. Overcoming inevitable technical issues that interrupt course progress.**

**This presentation will address each of the objectives as stated above that are critical to instructional success in a distance learning environment. It will focus on motivating and developing the skills necessary for instructors to teach a first course online as well as offer some insight into successful distance education practices to experienced online instructors for both undergraduate and graduate students. It will also offer insight and suggestion to those faculty members who are considering entering online education. In addition, schools and colleges will benefit from my discussion relating to developing and delivering a successful online program. Participants will experience the challenges, issues, and approaches inherent in developing, delivering and supporting a distance education program. The presenter is a motivational speaker who addresses issues of concern in many different subject areas using an informative, practical and humorous approach.**

**Based upon my experience in distance education at both the undergraduate and graduate level, the stated objectives of this presentation represent those issues that have surfaced throughout each of the online courses that I have taught. Practical remedies will be discussed in relation to their impact on resolving or addressing each objective. Each objective will be addressed using specific examples and actual scenarios from online coursework. Attendees will receive multiple handouts that define and support each objective and establish a basis for practical use. A model will be discussed which promotes the idea of establishing a dynamic syllabus that “evolves” as the course progresses. This approach customizes the online course to each set of students that the instructor encounters.**

I am currently associated with Baker College Online and serve in as an online instructor, course developer and new online faculty coach. I have also taught numerous courses in Applied Managerial Statistics and Quality as an online instructor for the Keller Graduate School of Management School(Oakbrook Terrace, IL.), American Intercontinental University and the University of Phoenix.

*I have been an invited presenter at several other national conferences..*

Through the use of a sophisticated online platform, I build coursework online for delivery to adult learners pursuing both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Through several iterations, the coursework evolves into several communication mediums and diverse instructional strategies that are tailored to meet the unique needs of adult learners many of whom are currently employed in managerial positions. I believe that distance education as a course delivery system has extreme merits but requires planning and practices that differ considerably from traditional classroom instruction. I have over 15 years as a college instructor in both mathematics and business management coursework, 6 years of teaching as an online instructor, presenter on adult education issues and innovative instructional strategies at numerous national conferences.