

Background

With the increasing availability of technology and networks, online learning is becoming more prevalent in schools systems and colleges. The effectiveness of such online classes depends largely upon the capabilities of the instructor teaching the class. Relatively few existing teachers have any first-hand experience with online learning and hence do not have the necessary background to teach an online class effectively. The classes offered by **Online Teaching Associates** (OTA) provide teachers with the proficiencies and knowledge needed to be an effective online teacher.

The standards and proficiencies guiding all of OTA's online courses are based on and correlated to both the National Standards for Quality Online Teachers (NSQOT), as published by the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL); and the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS), as published by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

OTA offers a suite of courses, each of which is 4-6 weeks in length (depending upon the specific requirements of each customer).

Free Resources for High-needs Schools

OTA provides two Web 2.0 online educational environments available at no cost to schools and districts serving high-needs communities.

Visit OTAWiki and OTA_Elgg:

<http://www.onlineteachingassociates.org/wiki>

<http://www.onlineteachingassociates.org/elgg>

Publications about what works in online learning

Cavanaugh, C., & Blomeyer, R. L. (Eds.). (2007). *What works in K-12 online learning*. Eugene, OR: International Society for Technology in Education.

Rose, R. M., & Blomeyer, R. L. (2007). Access and Equity in Online Classes and Virtual Schools. North American Council for Online Learning. Retrieved from http://www.nacol.org/docs/NACOL_EquityAccess.pdf

Moore, M. G., & Kearsley, G. (2005). *Study Guide for Distance Education: A Systems View* (2nd ed.). Florence, KY: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Smith, R., Clark, T., & Blomeyer, R. (2005). *A Synthesis of New Research on K-12 Online Learning*. Naperville, IL: North Central Regional Educational Laboratory. Retrieved from <http://www.ncrel.org/tech/synthesis/synthesis.pdf>

Blomeyer, R. L., & Dawson, M. (2005). Online Learning in K-12 Schools: What Really Works. In T. Clark and Z. Berge. (Eds.). *Virtual Schools & K-12 eLearning*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Kearsley, G. (Ed.). (2004). *Online Learning: Personal Reflections on the Transformation of Education*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Educational Technology Publications.

Cavanaugh, C., Gillian, K. J., Kromrey, J., Hess, M., & Blomeyer, R. (2004). *The effects of distance education on k-12 student outcomes: A meta-analysis*. Naperville, IL: North Central Regional Educational Laboratory. Retrieved from <http://www.ncrel.org/tech/distance/k12distance.pdf>.

Kearsley, G., & Blomeyer, R. (2004). Preparing K-12 teachers to teach online. *Educational Technology*, 44(1).

Blomeyer, R. (2002). NCREL Policy Issues #11: Virtual Schools & E-Learning in K-12 Environments. Naperville, IL: North Central Regional Educational Laboratory. Retrieved from <http://www.ncrel.org/policy/pubs/html/pivol11/apr2002c.htm>

Blomeyer, R. L. (2002). E-Learning Synthesis. Naperville, IL: North Central Regional Educational Laboratory. Retrieved from <http://www.ncrel.org/tech/elearn/system.htm>



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Preparing 21st
century educators to
support learning in
online, blended and
traditional learning
environments



[http://
www.onlineteaching
associates.com](http://www.onlineteachingassociates.com)

Our Mission

- to improve the effectiveness of online teaching through our course offerings
- organize and sustain professional communities that support continuous improvement of online teaching and learning
- further our understanding of online teaching through research and evaluation studies tied to the courses and community.



Online Teaching Associates



Greg Kearsley



Bob Blomeyer

Our Courses

Online Teaching Course (OTC) – an introduction to online teaching for teachers. Covers nature of online learning, online teaching methods, online assessment, managing online classes, and the social/ethical aspects of online teaching. Participants develop an online lesson plan as part of the course.

Management of Online Instruction (MOI) – an introduction to the management of online learning courses intended primarily for school/college administrators. It covers benefits/limitations of online learning, selecting and training online teachers, budgeting for online courses, evaluation methods for online learning, and the ethical/legal implications of online learning. Participants develop a plan of online learning as part of the course.

Learning 2.0 – is intended for individuals who want to understand first-hand how to harness the new applications of Web 2.0 for learning in formal or informal educational contexts. These applications include: blogs, wikis, podcasting, RSS feeds, social networking, media sharing, multiplayer games, and immersive environments. Our L20 course will be of particular interest to librarians, school technology coordinators, and those designing/teaching online courses.

Custom courses – configured to meet the needs of a specific institution and their teachers. For example, while online teaching for special needs is a topic covered in other courses, we could provide a full course about this topic if requested (e.g., for 504 coordinators). Alternatively, we could offer an entire course about online teaching for a given curriculum area (e.g., science, math, languages, etc).

Course Delivery

Using Open Source, Moodle Course Management System and the Wimba Online Classroom.

The OTA Team

Greg Kearsley, Ph.D. and Bob Blomeyer, Ph.D. have combined careers including more than 50 years of experience designing, developing and building online learning environments, as well as conducting research about educational technology.

OTA maintains a professional network of carefully screened and highly experienced master online instructors and experienced online teachers as subject matter experts for supporting custom development of new, high demand online courses.



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