



**Pre-Conference Workshops**  
**Wednesday, November 30, 2016**  
**10:30am - 12:00pm**

**(Participants Choose One)**

**Workshop #1**

**Starting Strong: Keys to a Great First Week? and Entire Term**

**Presented by: Wren Mills (Western Kentucky University)**

In this interactive workshop, we'll review research about and share practices to implement during the first week of your online course to set the tone for the entire term. We'll focus on practical ideas to create a good learning environment, including building community, social presence, and "swift trust."

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**Workshop #2**

**Education, Technologies and the Gaming World for DL**

**Presented by: Esther Rubio-Negron (Universidad del Este, SUAGM)**

Distance education for the 21st century brings new challenges. Making the link between millennial students or baby boomers, and difficult topics, require new and innovative engaging tools. Integrating gaming tools will unleash a variety of opportunities to overcome these challenges and release the student potential. This session will lead you to understand what exactly is Gaming integration? Why teachers did not use games in the classroom? And how students learn with gaming strategies? Participants will learn the steps to align the instructional design of their course with gaming integration and the importance to align this strategy with the assessment process. This information will help participants to innovate in their DL design, and unleash the students potential, through learning by playing.

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**Workshop #3**

**Tweeting Teaches and Pinterest Professors: Social Media Lessons from a Community**

**Presented by: Stephanie Thompson, Janet Stallard, Teresa Kelly, Barbara Green, Josef Vice (Kaplan University)**

Leveraging social networking to learn and grow as teachers and learners relies on authentic experiences, including participating in or managing asynchronous communities, leveraging knowledge repositories, harnessing formal and informal virtual live events, and critically examining emerging tools for ways to use them to learn as well as teach. The sheer variety of resources and tools requires a personalized professional development plan as well as strategies to identify and embrace new opportunities for learning. By the end of the session, participants will have numerous plans, strategies, and resources that they can implement as well as share within their communities



**Concurrent Session 1**  
**Wednesday, November 30, 2016**  
**3:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Cedar**

**Disconnect and Battle Six Super Villains to Win Back Your Life**

**Presented by: Janine Lim (Andrews University), Elaine Shuck (Polycom), Amy Spath (Central New York Regional Information Center)**

**Track: Disconnect**

Are you trapped on the treadmill of not getting enough done? Feeling disconnected? Stressed? Join us as we discuss our battle with evil super villains: Dr. Distraction, Sir Sit-a-Lot, Captain Busyness, Ferocious Foodie, Guilty Girl, and Super-Yes-Woman. Learn how to tap into your superhero powers to recharge your work-life balance.

**Mesquite**

**The Yin-Yang of eLearning: How to Stay Centered in a Fast-Paced Work Environment**

**Presented by: Georgianna Laws (Augusta University)**

**Track: Techconnect**

It is not only possible to maintain a healthy work-life balance in the eLearning arena, but you owe it to yourself, to those you work with/for, and to your loved ones. Come learn from my mistakes and maybe you can steer clear of these same pitfalls.

**Magnolia**

**Achieving Student Satisfaction A Combination of High Tech an High Touch**

**Presented by: Melanie Gray**

**Track: Techconnect**

Teacher interaction has been regarded as a significant aspect of learning experiences online. This presentation expands on a research study that attempted to predict student satisfaction as an outcome of specific types and frequency of teacher-student interactions. The results demonstrated aspects of instructor presence significantly linked to student satisfaction.

**Retama**

**Creating Networks of Women Leaders to Fill the Void**

**Presented by: Lisa Brown (Texas A&M University, Bush School of Government & Public Service)**

**Track: Interconnection**

The Women Administrators Network at Texas A&M University began in 2007 to develop and promote women faculty and staff toward administrative roles. Discover how such networks are formed and sustained. Create events at your organization to provide development and mentor women toward leadership positions!

**Laurel**

**10 Tips for Accessibility**

**Presented by: Lesley Casarez and Gina Shipley (Angelo State University)**

**Track: Making the Connection**

When designing online courses, it is imperative to ensure access for all students. Increasing accessibility for students with disabilities can also ensure success for all students by reaching different learning styles. This presentation will give participants ten tips to provide accessibility in online courses.

**Palm**

**Implementing a Mentoring Approach to Faculty Development**

**Presented by: Karen Ferguson and Melanie Shaw (Colorado State University Global)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

Universities continue to rely on adjunct faculty to teach in a standardized outcomes based model. The success of this model relies on our ability to select, engage, mentor, and develop our faculty. A holistic approach to faculty development and mentoring will be presented and discussed in this session.



**Concurrent Session 2**  
**Wednesday, November 30, 2016**  
**4:15pm – 5:15pm**

**Cedar**

**Social Media is the New Face-to-Face**

**Presented by: Karen Paulik (Booz Allen Hamilton) and Haley Hoffman (Booz Allen Hamilton)**

**Track: Re-Connect**

Social media often intimidates eLearning developers and learners. We have worked with government and corporate clients to craft effective social media and user experience strategies that enhance eLearning. In this session, we will discuss real-world social media tactics to assist eLearning professionals in developing programs that effectively incorporate social media.

**Mesquite**

**Promising Partnerships: Connecting Student & Academic Affairs Support Services**

**Presented by: Jessica Burchfield and Stephany Compton (Texas Woman's University)**

**Track: Techconnect**

As online and hybrid course offerings continue to rise, innovative solutions are needed to support college student persistence. This session will discuss how Texas Woman's University is developing programs and increasing access for students through academic & student affairs collaborative programs and initiatives.

**Magnolia**

**Cowboys and Cats: Herding Instructors (to show presence) Without Getting All Scratched Up**

**Presented by: Samantha Penney (Indiana State University)**

**Track: Disconnect**

Cats and Cowboys are our roles as faculty and instructional designers. We are the cowboys herding the cats, faculty, to add instructor presence in their courses. We will discuss the cat's characteristics and how we can use design to help herd them in the direction our trail boss wants.

**Retama**

**Tech Talk: How to Best Communicate Using Videoconferencing Technology**

**Presented by: Janet Major (Arizona Telemedicine Program)**

**Track: Techconnect**

This session will explore best practices in how to best use technology to communicate. Discussion will include how to format your media, where to place your camera - as well as how to "dress for success!" Little things make a BIG difference and there will be valuable tips on how to be a better communicator at a distance.

**Laurel**

**Failing Gracefully**

**Presented by: Katie Bradford (Instructure)**

**Track: Linking The Connections**

As women in the workplace, we often feel pressure to avoid failure at all costs, but this habit may actually hinder our creativity. In this session, learn how to carefully evaluate and iterate on failure, both at work and in your personal life, to become more innovative, resilient, and successful.

**Palm**

**Creativity is the New Little Black Dress**

**Presented by: Valary Oleinik (Consultant)**

**Track: Disconnect**

Like the essential, versatile, and universal little black dress, creativity is something we all need close at hand. Everyone (yes, even you) is creative in a unique way based on abilities, interests, opportunities, and innate style. In an ever-more-rapidly-changing world, creativity helps us be ready for any event. This interactive session will help everyone find ways that creativity can enhance their lives and give participants a chance to practice some creativity. Each participant will also leave with a series of quick exercises they can use to continue their creative practice.



**Poster Session  
IFWE Opening Reception  
Wednesday, November 30, 2016  
6:30pm-8:00pm**

**LITE Up Online Education: Connecting Online Lectures**

**Presented by: Shandy Beck (Northwest Missouri State University)**

Have you ever wanted to teach a concept online, but struggle with either recording the back of your head, or being limited by screenshots, screen recordings, and PowerPoints? The CITE LITEBoard has helped us overcome this challenge. We will show what it is, how it works, and challenges we've overcome.

**Empowering "Six Degrees of Separation" to Build Leaders of Tomorrow**

**Presented by: Sara Hughes (East Carolina University and NC State University)**

The ECU/NC State Collaborative is located in Eastern North Carolina. A coalition of local leaders conceived the idea of creating a higher education hub that would allow all of the schools in the UNC system bring their vast array of lower cost DE programs to this economically depressed region. Come visit our table to learn more!

**Development of a Continuing Education Program for LTC and Affiliated Pharmacists**

**Presented by: Sarah Lawrence and Barbara Jolly (Sullivan University College of Pharmacy)**

In 2015, PharMerica, a national provider of Long Term Care and related pharmacy services, retained the services of Sullivan University College of Pharmacy to develop the company's first continuing education program for its pharmacist workforce. This poster presentation summarizes the steps taken in the development and implementation of that partnership.

**All right stop, COLLABORATE and... LEARN!**

**Presented by: Julie Ward (Tarleton State University)**

Technology is an amazing, innovative, engaging and ever-changing tool. We are able to have a wealth of information at our fingertips 24/7. Instead of seeing this as a distraction in the classroom, why not integrate it into the curriculum and make learning FUN using these tips and tricks?

**Diversities Invisible Role in Distance Education**

**Presented by: Laura Pipoly (University of Phoenix)**

Distance education students are scattered across the world and in many cases instructors are also geographically as widely dispersed as students. Research has demonstrated an increase in diversity in our population and of specific interest is how diversity will have an impact on student learning in distance education programs. Stop by to see our research and results.



**Concurrent Session 3**  
**Thursday December 1, 2016**  
**8:30am – 9:30am**

**Cedar**

**Mission-Driven Leadership in eLearning**

**Presented by: Lauren Carris and Kacey Thorne (Western Governors University)**

**Track: Techconnect**

This session explores a mission-driven approach to promoting women leaders at Western Governors University. The collaborative session engages participants in reflective practice and application of the approach to their respective eLearning environments. Together, presenters and participants analyze case-specific adoptions of technology as a means for interaction, engagement, and continuous learning.

**Mesquite**

**Leave No Student Behind in Cyberspace! Innovative Strategies for Online Teachers**

**Presented by: Kenyatta Phelps (Lone Star College - University Park)**

**Track: Techconnect**

Are you stuck trying to find ways to improve your online classes? This session is designed to provide educators ideas on how to build an inviting learning space for their online classes using discussion forums tool. The presenter will show attendees how to incorporate OER and apps into discussion forums.

**Magnolia**

**"Herstories" on the Evolution of Second Life On Our Campus**

**Presented by: Maureen Ellis, Elizabeth Hodge, Sharon Kibbe, Patricia Anderson (East Carolina University)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

Four women from divergent educational areas merged their leadership experiences in planning, designing, and networking to embrace teaching and learning in Second Life. Colleagues from ECU plan to discuss how the virtual environment has moved beyond the ordinary to provide innovative, interactive, and immersive learning opportunities for multiple disciplines.

**Retama**

**Increasing Access to Female-Friendly Careers Through An Online Pharmacy Degree**

**Presented by: Zara Risoldi Cochrane and Amy Wilson (Creighton University)**

**Track: Making the Connection**

eLearning can increase access to professional degree programs. This session describes efforts to increase women's access to the pharmacy profession, which ranks highly in pay equity and work-life balance. We share a successful eLearning model to create opportunities for nontraditional female students to pursue advanced degrees and achieve professional goals.

**Laurel**

**Balancing Home and Work: Creating Your Own Version of Harmony**

**Presented by: Ashley Vaughn (Mercer County Public Schools)**

**Track: Linking The Connections**

Ashley L. Vaughn, Ed. D. is committed to having a healthy home and successful career. Using her personal experiences with family relationships and career, Dr. Vaughn will share her successes and failures with balancing home and work. Being a wife, mother, and professional does not lead to complete chaos!

**Palm**

**CBE Through the Lens of Access and Diversity**

**Presented by: Karen Yoshino and Cheryl Cyrus (Blackboard)**

**Track: Making the Connection**

In this session, participants will learn how best practices in competency-based education address inclusion, diversity and personalization in ways that open access to non-traditional and underserved learners. The session will cover key elements of CBE including curriculum design, assessment, technology, instructional design, pedagogy/andragogy, and learner support.



**Concurrent Session 4**  
**Thursday December 1, 2016**  
**9:45am – 10:45am**

**Cedar**

**Transforming Learning & Teaching Through Social Media**

**Presented by: Carolyn Awalt, Maria Cortez, Amy Serafini (University of Texas at El Paso, College of Education)**

**Track: Techconnect**

Classroom teachers, professors, and school leaders must know how to address the instructional needs of students. Learn how The College of Education at UTEP uses Google Hangouts, along with Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to engage undergraduate and masters level students in their learning, while targeting academic rigor and accountability.

**Mesquite**

**Virtual Worlds, Real Learning**

**Presented by: Susan Aldridge (Drexel University)**

**Track: Techconnect**

Based on rigorous research, comprising dozens of interviews with institutions around the world, this presentation will demonstrate some of the many innovative ways virtual reality, augmented reality, and holography are being used to engage students in the active, authentic, and customized learning experiences they must have to succeed.

**Magnolia**

**My Herstory into Distance Education: What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been!**

**Presented by: Donna Mancuso (Texas A&M University)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

I will take you all on a stroll through my long-term career path of over 40 years, which is one that dabbled in distance learning throughout the decades. Come along with me on this long, strange trip on the way to distance education!

**Retama**

**Disconnect to Reconnect! A Starter Guide to Achieving a Healthy Mindset**

**Presented by: Michelle Durán (Texas A&M University-Kingsville)**

**Track: Disconnect**

In a world where you are surrounded by technology 24/7/365, it is extremely difficult to disconnect, but sometimes it is a lot more necessary than you may think. This session will give you the opportunity to disconnect from tech and reconnect with yourself!

**Laurel**

**Mentoring, Collaboration, and Support Through Multiple Roles in Distance Ed**

**Presented by: Jahna Kahrhoff, Laura Woods, Flo Wolfe Sharp (Kaplan University)**

**Track: Linking The Connections**

Three Assistant Deans of Curriculum from Kaplan University will share their collective and individual experiences, and how mentoring, collaboration, and support played necessary parts in their multiple roles with the University.

**Palm**

**Arab Women/Arab Spring, and the Promises of Distance Learning**

**Presented by: Ghada Abdel Salam**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

This session will explore the Presenter's story as an Arab woman who is very passionate about distance learning. How the presenter has used technology to help other fellow Arab women overcome the turmoils of civil wars and political unrest after the Arab Spring will be discussed.



**Concurrent Session 5**  
**Thursday December 1, 2016**  
**11:00am - 12:00pm**

**Cedar**

**Networking for Professional Development and Career Advancement**

**Presented by: Brenda Boyd (Quality Matters)**

**Track: Interconnection**

How do you begin to build a professional network in your industry? To advance today, it's not only what you know, but who you know that matters. Learn and practice networking techniques sure to grow your network and your opportunities.

**Mesquite**

**A Beginner's Guide to Learning Analytics**

**Presented by: Mindy Menn (Texas Woman's University)**

**Track: Techconnect**

What do novices need to know about learning analytics? How can learning analytics be leveraged to improve online programs and students' experiences in online programs? Find out during this session addressing the basics of learning analytics.

**Magnolia**

**Empathy in Action to Engage in Meaningful Conversations about Digital Learning**

**Presented by: Marcela Ramirez, Claudia Arcolin, Diana Amis (The University of Texas at San Antonio)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

Empathy has the power to break down barriers and open doors in distance education. The presenters will describe how they started working in the eLearning field, how their passion for digital learning grows day-by-day, and how they collaborate and promote distance education through intelligent leadership and empathy.

**Retama**

**Your Super Powers: Mentors, Networks, and Education**

**Presented by: Sher Downing (Palmetto College)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

Women serve in a variety of roles in distance education. Progressing in academic management is sometimes difficult; how do women make their mark in distance education? We'll look at increasing personal networks, selecting professional development that aligns with goals and industry trends. Participants and the speaker will share best practices.

**Laurel**

**"Danger, Wilhelmina Robinson! I Can't Get Through My Grading!!"**

**Presented by: Lori Kupczynski and Marie-Anne Mundy (Texas A&M University-Kingsville)**

**Track: Techconnect**

Lost in Grading? For anybody who has ever spent hours and hours grading student papers just to discover that students didn't understand the comments, this is the session for you! We'll tell you how to reduce grading time and provide better feedback with audio.

**Palm**

**Act Two: Living Our Dreams**

**Presented by: Betty Hurley (SUNY Empire State College) and Carol Yeager (Independent Online Learning/Higher Education Consultant)**

**Track: Disconnect**

What act are you into now? The co-presenters consider their current performance part of a Second Act. Both are in or near retirement from "real" jobs and now enjoy the freedom to explore different networks and projects. Come hear our stories and also share your dreams for your next act.



**Concurrent Session 6**  
**Thursday December 1, 2016**  
**1:30pm – 2:30pm**

**Cedar**

**Work-Life Balance: Keeping It All in Balance Despite the Wobbles Encountered**

**Presented by: Lyda Downs (Walden University)**

**Track: Disconnect**

While the virtual workplace allots many conveniences, it also presents challenges, or wobbles when attempting balance work and life for female professionals. During this session work-life balance will be explored and techniques to minimize the wobbles will be presented.

**Mesquite**

**Breaking Down the Walls: Using eLearning in Disadvantaged Schools**

**Presented by: Beverly Knox-Pipes (BKP Solutions) and Jerri Lynn Williams-Harper (Albion Community School)**

**Track: Making the Connection**

Preparing students to be competitive in a global economy is key to the success of schools. The challenge is overcoming reports that 1/4 Michigan children live in poverty! See how one district seized the challenge and used eLearning /video conferencing to connect minority disadvantaged students to a new world.

**Magnolia**

**Your Attention Please: Getting and Holding Students Attention from the Start**

**Presented by: Marybeth Green and Marie-Anne Mundy (Texas A & M Kingsville)**

**Track: Techconnect**

Numerous face-to-face instructional designs feature strategies for getting students' attention from the start of the lesson. How can we translate these strategies into distance learning?

**Retama**

**Technology Affordances and Changing the Message**

**Presented by: Margaret Simonis and Rebecca Johnston (Western Governors University)**

**Track: Disconnect**

Is your cell phone the first thing you check in the morning? As leaders of faculty who work remotely, we have a unique perspective about the blurred line between work and personal life. We will share practices we recommend to help people get real time away from work!

**Laurel**

**20+ Years in Distance Learning: How I got Involved and How it Has Changed**

**Presented by: Jennifer Summerville (Collin College)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

What does 20+ years in Distance Learning look like? Well...it wasn't just online! Come to this session to interactively discuss where we've been and where we are going in the near and perhaps more distant future.

**Palm**

**15 Tips When Working With New Technologies and Learning Ideas**

**Presented by: Diana Amis (University of Texas at San Antonio)**

**Track: Techconnect**

After working with faculty and technology in a variety of positions in Distance Learning, I have discovered 15 tips on how to work with all these new-fangled learning techniques and/or technologies. Come join us to learn!





**Concurrent Session 7**  
**Thursday December 1, 2016**  
**2:45pm - 3:45pm**

**Cedar**

**Mentoring: Our Connection to Women & eLearning**

**Presented by: Lisa Bunkowski and Laresa Trusty (Texas A&M University - Central Texas)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

Our interactive presentation analyzes a departmental mentoring survey and a larger mentoring survey conducted with the membership of the Texas Distance Learning Association. We will discuss what participants feel are the most significant challenges for women working in distance learning; and how they feel mentoring might help address these challenges.

**Mesquite**

**Defaulting to Yes: How a Curious, Collaborative Mind Can Lead You to Success**

**Presented by: Mary Beth Kurilko (Philadelphia University)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

Few in eLearning actually planned to be in the field. Ask most in our industry and they'll say, "It's a long story!" In this session we'll have a lively discussion on how saying yes to tasks nobody else wants, staying curious, flexible and open results in professional growth.

**Magnolia**

**Plugging Back In: Re-establishing Student-Teacher Connections in Online Courses**

**Presented by: Jennifer Willis-Opalenik and Amanda Bruce (University of Houston - Clear Lake)**

**Track: Techconnect**

Learn how to recharge your existing online courses or amp up new courses by promoting student-teacher connections throughout the semester. In addition to the presenter's ideas, the session will engage participants to ask questions and share their successes and suggestions for creating and maintaining presence in online teaching.

**Retama**

**Faculty Development, Social Media and Online Teaching**

**Presented by: Judy Oskam (Texas State University)**

**Track: Re-Connect**

Some faculty have built a strong online presence in order to connect with their students. A 2015 Pew Research Center report found that almost two-thirds of American adults (65%) use social networking sites. This presentation will explore ways online faculty can use social media to communicate course content.

**Laurel**

**Leveraging What Matters**

**Presented by: Jodi Marshall, Robin Winder, Aura Plair, Lisa Edgar (Florida Virtual School)**

**Track: Linking the Connections**

Listen in as four senior leaders from Florida Virtual School tell you about their story and how they strategically lean on the strengths that set them apart in their field and the experiences that brought them to their roles to help develop leaders in their organization and beyond.

**Palm**

**A Matter of Trust: Technology and Privacy in eLearning Environments**

**Presented by: Susan Stephan (Nova Southeastern University)**

**Track: Techconnect**

This session will discuss educational privacy issues online, with a brief overview of relevant federal and state laws. A possible framework within which to address privacy - and to contribute to an environment of trust - in our online distance courses and communities will be proposed and shared.



**Concurrent Session 8**  
**Friday, December 2, 2016**  
**9:00am – 10:00am**

**Cedar**

**Delivering Innovation and Entrepreneurship to the MENA Region**

**Presented by: Meghan Kent (Stanford University) and Ireen Massis (Stanford University)**

**Track: Making the Connection**

During 2015 - 2016 Stanford University designed and delivered a curriculum in Innovation and Entrepreneurship to promote gender equality in the labor force in the MENA region. The curriculum was distributed virtually, allowing for unlimited scale of and the highest possible impact to the region. During this session we will share the initial needs, survey results from the pilot program, and our own observations, obstacles, and solutions. Furthermore, we will share our findings from women who have taken the course and the impact that it has had on their academic, personal, and professional lives.

**Mesquite**

**Feeding Your Mind, Body and Soul: Incorporating Technology in your Self-Care Plan**

**Presented by: Karina Gil (Our Lady Of the Lake University), Kathy Phoenix (Our Lady Of the Lake University), and Cynthia Squiabro (Our Lady Of the Lake University)**

**Track: Disconnect**

This presentation will provide participants with practical, easily accessible tools, embedded in the World Wide Web that can facilitate self-care practices. The discussion will be dynamic and interactive, and the audience will be able to create their own self-care plan that works specifically for them.

**Magnolia**

**The Community of Inquiry (CoI): Strategies for a Great Online Course**

**Presented by: Sarah Bryans-Bongey (Nevada State College)**

**Track: Techconnect**

The Community of Inquiry (or CoI Model) had its start in higher education, and is the first framework to address essential elements for the fully online course (Garrison, 2011). Attend this session to learn reasons behind the CoI's popularity and specific ways to implement it in your own online classroom.



**Concurrent Session 9**  
**Friday, December 2, 2016**  
**10:15am - 11:15am**

**Cedar**

**Tech Connect: Discussion Boards that Transcend Discussions**

**Presented by: Marla James (Union Catholic High School)**

**Track: Techconnect**

As instructors increasingly forge connections between traditional pedagogy and eLearning, online discussion boards are becoming a standard tool of the trade. Unfortunately, these can become predictable, shallow and, at best, mere exchanges of information. This presentation will focus on transforming virtual discussions into substantive, student-centered, 21st century learning experiences.

**Mesquite**

**I'll Give It A Try**

**Presented by: Renee Aitken (Wright State University)**

**Track: Linking The Connections**

My dad told me never to turn down an opportunity and I don't think I ever did. My journey is very diverse and I have learned a great deal about life, family, and growth by sticking to the words "I'll give it a try." In this session, I will tell you my life's journey and the lessons I have learned.

**Magnolia**

**Women & Gaming: Educational Gaming for All**

**Presented by: Amber Muenzenberger (Triseum, LLC) and Shawna Fletcher (Texas A&M University)**

**Track: Making the Connection**

Gaming has grown immensely over the last decade, including using games for education and professional development. There are a growing number of gamers around the world, including women. Join the conversation of gender roles in gaming, ties between gaming and elevated interests STEM careers, and inclusion of gameplay in education.