



# Growing Online Learning

## 2014: Using Technology to Retain and Engage Students

*FREE web-based conference for Illinois community colleges.*

**February 11 – 13, 2014**

**Keynote – "Online teaching will never be as good as real teaching," and other lies your elders told you.**

Michelle Stephens  
 Author *Prepare for Impact and Teaching in Zero Gravity*



Feb. 11 10:00 AM	<b>"Online teaching will never be as good as real teaching," and other lies your elders told you.</b>	Michelle Stephens Richland Community College
Feb. 11 2:00 PM	<b>Throw Out the Cookie Cutters!</b>	Linda Lee & Jill Johnson Carl Sandburg College
Feb. 12 10:00 AM	<b>Building Content Knowledge and Community in an Online Course Using Storybooks</b>	Elizabeth Kershnik Oakton Community College
Feb. 12 12:00 PM	<b>Creating an Accessible Online Course</b>	Janet Peters University of Illinois at Chicago
Feb. 12 2:00 PM	<b>Improving Online Student Retention</b>	Kona Jones Richland Community College
Feb. 13 10:00 AM	<b>Enrich Online Student Learning Experience by Using Screencast-O-Matic</b>	Diane King & Terry Lucas Southeastern Illinois College
Feb. 13 2:00 PM	<b>Getting Audio and Video into Your Online Course</b>	Nancy Heuer-Evans & Brandy Thatcher, Illinois Central College Brett Coup, College of DuPage

Registration and additional information are available [here](#).

For additional information contact: Jeff Newell, ILCCO Director, (217) 558-2066, [jeff.newell@illinois.gov](mailto:jeff.newell@illinois.gov)

## Sessions

### **Keynote: "Online teaching will never be as good as real teaching," and other lies your elders told you.**

February 11, 10:00 AM

Michelle Stephens

Coordinator of Richland Theatre Program, Richland Community College

Author *Prepare for Impact* and *Teaching in Zero Gravity*

Stephens, author of *Prepare for Impact* and *Teaching in Zero Gravity*, is both a lover of technology and a skeptic. During her keynote session, she explains how the outcomes of online education have nothing to do with the classroom impact. Working deftly, like a hibachi chef, she will separate out all of the key components of online education and of teaching and explain that not only is real comparable online education within our grasp, it is at our door. Then she will toss them with some vegetables and throw them on your plate. (These are often referred to as "takeaways.") She will also explain how having impact in the classroom is a lot more low-tech than you think. Using multiple perspectives, Stephens weaves pedagogy and storytelling like ... Well, like a person who weaves a lot of things together. Particularly important things.

### **Throw Out the Cookie Cutters!**

February 11, 2:00 PM

Linda Lee

Associate Director of Educational Technology and Innovation

Jill Johnson

Associate Dean of Social and Behavioral Science

Carl Sandburg College

Throw out the cookie cutter and allow students to shape their own learning space in online classes. Personalized learning paths and U-Pace will be discussed.

### **Building Content Knowledge and Community in an Online Course Using Storybooks**

February 12, 10:00 AM

Elizabeth Kershisnik

Professor of Chemistry

Oakton Community College

Having groups create a child's storybook about a chemistry concept can help solidify content knowledge and build group cohesion. This presentation will cover 1) how the group project is designed, 2) ways to assign groups, 3) rubrics and assessment, and 4) successes and pitfalls of this type of learning module.

## **Creating an Accessible Online Course**

February 12, 12:00 PM

Janet Peters

Project Coordinator for Education and Assistive Technology  
University of Illinois at Chicago

What does the word accessible mean to you? You may first think of the word available. Something that is accessible is available, or perhaps within reach for you to use. However, just because something is available doesn't necessarily mean it is accessible. For instance, if you are hard of hearing or have poor vision, a course may be "available" but hard or impossible for you to use because it was not designed with accessibility in mind. This session will discuss the reasons to create your course in an accessible way and will offer practical and easy tips on how to do that, including checklists and resources to streamline the process.

## **Improving Online Student Retention**

February 12, 2:00 PM

Kona Jones

Director of Online Learning  
Richland Community College

Retention and success are important issues, yet in most cases there is little to nothing done to directly monitor and provide early intervention strategies to online students at risk. Because of this, Richland Community College partnered with AspireEDU to help improve their online retention. Aspire pulls various pieces of student information from Richland's LMS and is able to then provide a "risk index" of how likely it is that each student will drop out or fail their online course(s). Using this risk score, Richland was able to quickly pick out the online students most at risk and start an early alert intervention with the students. This session will include tips on how to identify at risk students, Richland's early alert strategy, and results of the initial online retention pilot.

## **Enrich Online Student Learning Experience by Using Screencast-O-Matic**

February 13, 10:00 AM

Dr Diane King

Coordinator of Early Childhood Education and Education Programs

Terry Lucas

Educational Technology Specialist  
Southeastern Illinois College

Online students benefit from personalized contact and encouragement. Incorporating video and audio feedback for written assignments adds another dimension to online pedagogy.

## **Getting Audio and Video into Your Online Course**

February 13, 2:00 PM

Nancy Heuer-Evans  
English Instructor

Brandy Thatcher  
Instructional Media Developer  
Illinois Central College

Brett Coup  
Associate Dean for Instructional Technology  
College of DuPage

Join us for a discussion of tips, tricks and ideas for working with audio and video in your online course. We'll discuss common challenges for getting audio and video into your courses: efficient storage of large media files, competing video formats, browser issues. You will also hear a faculty member's perspective on using audio and video in her online courses. We'll demonstrate a few solutions, such as using Google Drive for hosting video