



# Learning Links

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## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

The Sloan-C Workshop on Blended Learning and Higher Education: Getting the Best of Both Worlds will be held **April 27-28** at the University of Illinois-Chicago. This international workshop is dedicated solely to the research, pedagogy and implementation of blended learning. This conference provides the opportunity for administrative leaders, faculty members, instructional designers and researchers to discuss blended learning in higher education. This highly interactive conference is a great opportunity not only for you, but for your institution as well.

For more information regarding this conference and registration information, please click on the link below.

[Sloan-C Workshop](#)

## MARCH FEATURE CORNER:

### BALDWIN-WALLACE COLLEGE

### Creating Engaging Experiences Online

The Baldwin-Wallace College Creating Engaging Experiences Online Learning Community is a former OLN community that was established in 2006. The development of this community also created a spin-off community at Baldwin-Wallace College entitled Baldwin-Wallace College Student Engagement, which is a recipient of the 2008-2009 OLN Grant. The Creating Engaging Experiences Online Learning Community has recently authored an article about their Community in the *Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration*. Below, you will find the introduction to this interesting and intuitive article.

The availability of online course options in higher education continues to grow in response to student demand for the convenience and autonomy in learning that online courses provide (Tallent-Runnels et al., 2006). Nearly all types of higher learning institutions offer some online courses, with both larger and public institutions typically providing the most offerings. In contrast, small, private four-year institutions are least likely to offer online course options (Allen & Seaman, 2006).

(CONT.)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Annual Conference on Standards and Assessment will be held **April 20-22** in Las Vegas, NV. This conference focuses on applications and strategies that deeply embed aligned standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment into daily classroom practice.

### Standards and Assessment Conference

The HASTAC III: Traversing Digital Boundaries Conference will be held **April 19-21** at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. HASTAC is a consortium of humanists, artists, scientists, and engineers, of leading researchers and nonprofit research institutions, committed to new forms of collaboration across communities and disciplines fostered by creative uses of technology. If you are interested in learning more about this conference, there is currently a blog, conference agenda, and information about their extended workshops following the conference on their web site. Click on the hyper link below for more information.

[HASTAC](#)

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To join the **OLN News List**:  
<http://lists.olin.org/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=oln-news&A=1>

Intuitively, it makes sense that larger institutions have more online course offerings. Larger institutions see more diverse learning needs from their student populations leading to a higher demand for online course offerings. Additionally, when compared to smaller schools, larger ones will likely have more technological and other resources to ease the introduction of online courses. Essentially, faculty interested in designing online learning options at smaller institutions may lack the means to do so.

Further, reluctance for smaller institutions to enter the world of online learning often goes beyond technological capabilities and student demands. Smaller institutions tend to have strongly held cultural beliefs that create barriers to the introduction of online learning. When a college has institutional practices geared toward traditional approaches to learning, adopting online learning presents a challenge (Davis & Fill, 2007).

A small liberal arts college located in the Midwest took a unique approach to overcome the challenge of introducing online education. The College administration determined that the need to remain competitive and meet students' needs required they consider online course offerings. To support faculty in this pursuit, the College established a Faculty Learning Community to lead campus efforts in designing online course offerings. This paper will explore the College's use of a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) to introduce online learning and summarize the outcomes of this initiative.

To read the entire article click [here](#)

## NICOLE'S NOTE

We welcome your feedback on "our" newsletter. If there are more topics that you are interested in, or your community would like to author a column, please email us at [olnrc@kent.edu](mailto:olnrc@kent.edu) and let us know!

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