Introducing the “Online Faculty Mentor” pilot project

Online instructors:

There has been a growing need in Distance Education to involve content experts from related disciplines in the process of mentoring new instructors during the learning stages, consulting during the course development process, reviewing all newly developed and revised courses, and guiding new instructors during their first term of teaching online. To address this need, we are excited about implementing the “Online Faculty Mentor” pilot project. This project is loosely patterned after a similar program that has been very successful at Front Range Community College, another multi-campus college in the Boulder area.

The goal of this project is to create a cadre of experienced online faculty in a broad variety of disciplines who can serve as primary contacts for new faculty developing and teaching online courses, as course reviewers for newly developed and revised courses in their discipline or a related discipline, as discipline leaders for development and implementation of standards for online teaching, and as resources for the distance education department in development of new technologies and systems.

A small group of experienced online instructors who are well acquainted with Quality Matters will form the initial group of online faculty mentors during the pilot phase of this project. (Note that there are not online leads to cover every discipline. We will work toward that goal, but we’ll be taking small steps. As it is, Peter Seaman, Mike Scott and I are still responsible for a number of disciplines.) Here are the online faculty mentors for the pilot project, and the general disciplines. For a specific list, please see http://www.pcc.edu/resources/instructional-support/documents/consultant-list.pdf

- Christopher Hughes (Math)
- Dan Dougherty (CIS, CAS, OS, CS)
- Florence Spraggins (Health Professions, various social sciences)
- Gabe Hunter-Bernstein (Education)
- Samm Erickson (Writing, Literature)
- Susanne Christopher (advisory role this year)

I will be in touch with some of you who are developing or revising a course this term to let you know if one of the online leads will be working with you or reviewing your course. We’re looking forward to implementing this project this term, and I will be happy to receive feedback throughout the year as we refine the program. Just let me know if you have any questions at this time.

Greg