An Independent IYOC with a Blended Twist Improving both Design and Delivery

Portland Community College

Who we are...

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Learning Objectives

- Expand your IYOC with a flexible F2F component designed to promote effective online teaching strategies in addition to good course design.
- Facilitate the fine-tuning and the application of instructional improvement plans through instructor collaboration beyond the IYOC.
- Integrate parts of the online instructional delivery guide used at PCC, "What works well in online teaching at PCC."



What QM workshops do you offer?



A bit about Portland Community College

Online Learning at PCC

- 4 main campuses + online
- 5,200 online FTE, 16% of the college
- 600+ online course sections/term
- 15-20 new online instructors/term
- 230 participated in QM training



Sylvania Campus



Introductory Training

FOOT:



OIO: Online Instructor Orientation

Advanced Training





Participated in QM training:

Portland Community College:230Statewide Consortium:900

Involved in QM training since 2005

Key QM Workshops



IYOC (Improving your Online Course)

Portland Community College: 85

Statewide consortium: 350

APPQMR (Applying the QM Rubric)

Portland Community College: 128

Statewide consortium: 420

Focus of IYOC vs. APPQMR

IYOC

- Focus on your own course
- Focus on all 21 essential standards
- Stand-alone workshop separate from the peer-reviewer track

APPQMR

- Focus on peer reviewing another course
- Focus on a mix of standards + writing a good recommendation
- Foundation course that can lead to becoming a peer reviewer

Which has more value for our instructors?



2015: Independent Version of the IYOC

Independent & Flexible

A Flexible IYOC

Duration

Mode

Adding Components



Photo by Marina Pissarova



...thus the "blended" twist

Observation:

IYOC focuses on design, an essential component of a quality course...

Instructional strategies at the delivery stage are also important.

What does your institution do to promote good teaching practices?

Beyond the standard IYOC...

a F2F follow-up workshop

Significant Benefits of the Follow-up Workshop...

- Added incentive to complete the course improvement plan
- Opportunity to share the course improvement plan for additional feedback
- Added component focusing on instructional strategies & good teaching practices



What works well in online teaching at PCC

Workshop Participant Perspective

tinyurl.com/hdjcah3

About the IYOC in general...

I loved the opportunity to apply the QM rubric to my own course! I think we should have the opportunity to run through a process like this in a supported way every 2-3 years, in order to refresh and revitalize our established online courses and/or add new ones into the mix. So many online practices move fast and get updated, and it can be easy to not take a fresh look or just not know about changes that can make the courses better.

Kelly LeFave, English



About the IYOC in general...

- I found that having a structured way (using the QM Rubric Workbook) to analyze my course revealed far more things about my course than I expected going into this training. I thought I'd fix up some of my existing content, and call it a day. I am so glad it was much more than that. It has provided a very methodical way for me to improve the quality of my course.
- I value seeing and hearing how other instructors organize and run their classes. Teaching online is a bit isolating and having this opportunity to see other options was appreciated. I was also able to see what I was missing. I didn't know what I didn't know.

Usefulness of improvement plan...

- The plan is a great tool for helping me focus on specific improvements and prioritizing them vs. feeling overwhelmed by a general need to work on various things that usually leaves me paralyzed. It helps to highlight specific changes as well as consider the time involved.
- The improvement plan will be very useful for me. Instead of a vague "I should fix some of this stuff," it gives me a concrete starting place and a timeline.



How likely are you to address improvement plan items?

- I fully intend to complete all four parts of my improvement plan. I have actually completed two of the four already.
- The training left me with 5 actionable items that I will very likely have in place when I run my course again next term. This training was very practical, and something I can apply immediately.
- I have already implemented some of the improvements and plan to complete the rest of improvements prior to next class.



Usefulness of the F2F follow-up...

I love the F2F follow up and found it essential. Please make sure to keep this as part of the course experience. It is so valuable to see what other online instructors are doing, to feel a sense of connection and community to other online instructors, and to have a chance to ask questions and clarify issues that come up. I actually found out that I should and could update my courses to the new template at the F2F meeting and would not have realized this otherwise.

Kelly LeFave, English



Usefulness of the F2F follow-up...

- I found the F2F follow-up really valuable for processing my plans and talking through what needed to happen in a way that clarified what I actually needed to do.
- I liked peering into the courses of teachers in the F2F session. I liked seeing pages of their course and also what they wanted to fix.
- In the f2f session I liked talking about the guidelines in the "What Works Well" booklet. This is one of my favorite things to do: talk with other teachers, see what they do, and then I can get new ideas. I also like sharing what I do well in my classes.

How important was the stipend for completion?

- Without the stipend, I would have had to pay for childcare out of my own pocket to attend the workshop. Also, the workshop is very intensive and requires a lot of time. Without the stipend, it might be hard for most PT instructors to be able to justify the amount of time required to complete the workshop, especially if they are working at multiple institutions.
- I would have participated regardless; however, a stipend is very important as it makes us feel that our time and efforts are valued.



How important was the stipend?

- Very important. I probably would not have participated if all that time would have been uncompensated. Since I am now motivated to do a lot of work to update my course (without compensation) it seems like PCC has made a really good investment with this course.
- Very. I would not have done it without it, which is unfortunate because this workshop was valuable and appreciated, but it was the only thing that enabled me to carve out the time.



Looking forward...

Experiment with workshop duration

Offer a virtual follow-up to include all statewide participants



Continue meeting as a small faculty learning community

Also offer F2F version of IYOC at PCC

What's working well at your college regarding the IYOC or methods used to promote good teaching practices?

Questions?

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