

Welcome the CTL's new Staff Members

Welcome to the fall semester! We were fortunate to have been able to replace the two technology staff members, who left us last year, with two new colleagues. They arrived in the summer and have already worked with a considerable number of faculty and staff members on instructional technology issues.



Angela Velez is our new Coordinator of Learning Technologies. She is responsible for coordinating campus efforts to expand blended learning and online teaching. In this capacity, she provides support and consultation to faculty and instructional staff in the design of technology-mediated instruction. She will offer workshops, written and online tutorials, and one-on-one training.

Angela comes to us with 11 years of traditional teaching experience at the college level and 4 years of online teaching experience. Her undergraduate degree is in Education & English, her MA is in English, and she is currently finishing up her dissertation in Adult Education with emphasis in online learning.

At her previous position as Faculty Development Coordinator at Davenport University-online in Grand Rapids, MI, she was part of a small team that ran a widely successful online program. During her tenure there she created several asynchronous training programs for faculty, and trained approximately 250 faculty members (adjuncts as well as full time faculty) to teach online. In addition, she provided support and development to them through virtual workshops, a virtual resource center (on the portal), and recognition programs. She has designed and developed dozens of online courses, mostly in English and related Humanities areas.

She has already visited several department meetings and met with many faculty and department chairs to discuss online course projects. Her announcement of a four-week online course on the basics of teaching online has met with so much interest that she decided to offer two simultaneous sections of it this fall and another two next spring semester. All four sections are filled by now with a total of more than 80 faculty.

Angela extends an open invitation to contact or visit her at the CTL. She is open to your suggestions, opinions, and ideas, and hopes to help NEIU take appropriate steps towards offering a variety of technology-enhanced course options for its students. You can reach her at extension 4497, or through email: a-velez4@neiu.edu.



Marc Raskinski is our new Learning Technologies Specialist. He administers and manages the University's Blackboard system, provides faculty support in the use of Blackboard, and explores new learning technologies for campus adoption. He also assists faculty with creating their electronic portfolios for tenure and promotion in *LiveText*.

Marc has considerable experience working in the technology field for the last 15 years. After starting out at Motorola, he worked for five years at Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), a regional educational laboratory in Honolulu. PREL organized educational services to the Ministries and Departments of Education throughout the islands of the Pacific.

Marc provided education and technical support, and was contracted out to local governments for the Hawaiian Islands, the territory of American Samoa, the territory of Guam, and many more. He also developed and led a cadre of technology professionals in education and health positions around the Pacific. This created a support network for each major island group and allowed for regular communication and assistance between site visits. The distance media that facilitated this exchange included: video teleconferencing, email, conference calls, and Blackboard resources. It resulted in a network that helped with technological needs of the education and health Ministries and Departments of the region.

In addition to his experience with Blackboard and system support, Marc also has experience with training, telecommunications, electronics, special needs technology, satellite earth stations, and as a project leader. At NEIU, he has already been productive over the last few months in creating three online tutorials for various units on campus: One on Academic Integrity (for the Dean of Student Life Office), one on Peer-Tutor Training (for the Learning Center), and one on Learning Goals Orientations (for the CTL and FYE). All three of them were developed in a new, affordable software that Marc discovered, called *QuestionWriter*.

Marc can be reached at extension 4463 or via e-mail at: M-Raskinski@neiu.edu.

In our next edition of the CTL Bulletin, we will outline some strategies you might use to prepare for possible emergencies in the event of an H1N1 outbreak on campus over the coming months. These will be helpful tips for using Blackboard and related technologies to stay in touch with your students in a situation where either students or faculty or both will not be able to come to campus. We will show you easy ways for expanding on your syllabus and publishing it in Blackboard; create chats and discussion forums; and possibly use synchronous communication media to allow for audio and even video interaction.

All CTL Bulletins are available on our website at: www.neiu.edu/~ctl/