



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OLN Rewards Faculty Learning Communities

Columbus, OH – A unique statewide initiative is helping faculty teach in new and better ways at Ohio colleges and universities. Thirty-one groups of faculty at 25 Ohio institutions received a second round of funding today after demonstrating progress toward their goals outlined in May.

The Ohio Learning Network (OLN) awarded \$25,000 to each of 31 new “learning communities” for a total of \$775,000. Each community previously received \$3,000 in seed money last May to launch their group’s activities. A learning community is a group of eight to ten faculty members focused on the teaching profession, collaboration, and approaches to common challenges as a community. Faculty members who often feel alone within their own institutions welcome the opportunity to work more closely with colleagues. The ultimate goal is to improve student learning.

“The learning community model is an innovative approach for faculty who want to improve teaching and learning,” said Kate Carey, OLN Executive Director. “It provides an opportunity for a core group of faculty to focus on teaching expertise and take risks they couldn’t normally take. A small, influential group of faculty can be a catalyst for an entire campus.”

The Learning Communities Initiative has two main outcomes: 1) Ohio faculty who use technology to improve student learning; and 2) free digital resources created by each of the communities that can be shared with faculty statewide. This latest funding sustains and supports ongoing activities of successful communities.

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Each learning community consists of faculty, PK-12 teachers, or representatives of various organizations and associations. Communities based at each of the following institutions will receive a \$25,000 Implementation Grant:

- Belmont Technical College
- Bluffton College
- Bowling Green State University (2*)
- Central State University
- Columbus State Community College
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Franciscan University of Steubenville
- Hocking College
- Kent State University (3*)
- Lorain County Community College
- Miami University
- The Ohio State University (2*)
- Ohio University
- Ohio University-Zanesville
- Owens Community College
- University of Akron
- University of Cincinnati (3*)
- University of Dayton
- University of Dayton-School of Education and Allied Professions
- The University of Findlay
- University of Toledo-College of Education
- Ursuline College
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University (2*)

* *Multiple communities at a single institution.*

All 31 learning communities will meet to share resources, network, get updates, and hear expert speakers at several statewide events happening over the next year.

“Sharing knowledge, information, and resources within and beyond a single institution is a fundamental and critical value of the Learning Communities Initiative,” said Sheryl Hansen, Director of Professional Development Programs at OLN. “Learning communities will continue changing the landscape of education in Ohio by working locally and across the state with the support of OLN.”

OLN helps Ohioans find college programs that meet their needs, works with colleges and universities using technology to improve teaching and learning, and helps build partnerships among higher education, schools, businesses, and communities. The Ohio Learning Network is a consortium of Ohio's public and independent colleges and universities and is an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents. On the World Wide Web: <http://www.oln.org>.

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