

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Ohio Learning Network and Your Campus

Did you know that your institution is a member of the Ohio Learning Network? If not, then you might wonder “Who is the Ohio Learning Network?” and “What are they doing for my students and my campus?”

The Ohio Learning Network (OLN) (www.oln.org) is a consortium of 66 colleges and universities – two-year and four-year, public and private - and is an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents. Through its programs and activities, OLN markets courses and degrees to potential students, provides programs and services for faculty seeking to use technology to improve learning, builds collaborations and manages a statewide Collaborative Learning Environment.

OLN offers several services that assist distance learning students:

E 4 ME: a free, non-credit introduction to e-learning

OhioLearns!: the online catalog of degrees, certificates, and courses available at a distance from Ohio’s colleges and universities.

Smarthinking: an online tutoring service

The OhioLearns! catalog is also a useful tool for student advisors. Students often find themselves in situations where they need to retake a course, need a course to graduate but find it is full or not offered, or are having difficulty working traditional face-to-face courses into their schedules. Advisors can help students use OhioLearns! to find online courses to help meet their needs.

Faculty can find valuable teaching tools and resources on the Teaching and Learning page (http://www.oln.org/teaching_and_learning/) of the OLN web site. CourseCheck, a self-study tool developed by OLN (<http://www.oln.org/coursecheck/>) provides a process for faculty to review their courses incorporating The Seven Principles of Good Practice.

During the past five years OLN has provided nearly \$8 million in grants to Ohio’s colleges and universities to develop additional online programs, redevelop existing courses to improve quality and efficiency, and for the development of Learning Communities at campuses around the state.

Through a new pilot project, OLN, the University of Cincinnati, and Kent State University are providing statewide shared course hosting in two commonly used tools – WebCT and Blackboard. Through a grant from the Ohio Board of Regents and funds and infrastructure from all three partners, this project of six institutions is saving money and providing better services to students and faculty. Plans are to expand the pilot later this fall.

For additional information about OLN and its services visit www.olin.org.