



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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COLUMBUS -- Students know that online courses in Ohio are of high quality thanks to two new services of the Ohio Learning Network (OLN). Courses that provide “Best Practices” and bear the CourseCheck icon, have met the state’s quality guidelines.

Now, institutions that list courses in OLN’s online catalog of distance courses called OhioLearns! (<http://www.ohiolearns.org/>) can receive the designation Best Practices in Student Services. George Steele, Director of Educational Access at OLN, says students need support as they consider their distance learning options.

”Students will find timely and necessary information about these institutions’ e-learning programs,” said Steele. “Financial aid, admissions, tutoring, access to library resources and other services that students need from colleges and universities are all provided to students at a distance just as they are for on-campus students.”

The guidelines for Best Practices in Student Services were assembled by the OLN Academic Outreach Committee made up of distance learning program directors from two- and four-year public and private higher educational institutions across Ohio.

To date, the following institutions have achieved the Best Practices in Student Services designation: Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Columbus State Community College, Lakeland Community College, Lorain County Community College, Myers University, University of Cincinnati, and The University of Toledo.

Students want good teaching in online courses just as they do with face-to-face courses. CourseCheck, an online tool for faculty who strive for greater excellence in their own teaching practice, helps faculty provide that in the online world. CourseCheck is a web-based, self-directed review process for an online course using the Seven Principles of Good Practice. Its primary user audience is faculty who teach online courses. According to Sheryl Hansen, Director of Professional Development at OLN, the goal is to assist faculty who want to excel in their teaching, but who may lack the time and tools to perform their own course review.

(more)

”We’ve made CourseCheck straightforward and simple; even the busiest faculty member will discover applicable resources and ideas when they use it,” said Hansen. “Both students and faculty benefit from CourseCheck.”

OhioLearns! (<http://www.ohiolearns.org/>)  
CourseCheck (<http://www.olin.org/coursecheck/>)

To find out more about how OLN supports quality in e-learning, visit  
[http://www.olin.org/about\\_olin/quality.php](http://www.olin.org/about_olin/quality.php)

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. OLN is a consortium of 65 public and independent colleges and universities in Ohio and is an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents. On the World Wide Web: <http://www.olin.org/>

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