

WCET *Frontiers* “What’s Next” Interviews

Spring 2020

Interviewer: Russ Adkins

Vicki Westergard, Executive Director of Online Learning, tells us about St. Petersburg College’s strategic deployment of its repository of certified “standard courses.”

St. Petersburg College is a medium-size Florida state college which had over 50% of its enrollment in fully online courses prior to COVID-19. SPC offers certificate, associate and bachelor’s degree programs, and has one of the largest online enrollments among that Florida State College system of 28 colleges.

From high quality ‘standard online’ courses to ‘retrofitted online’ courses. The College has a large repository of high-quality online courses as a result of an *online program strategic revitalization* effort that started five years ago. Content from these QM-certified ‘standard courses’ is being used to create *simplified retrofitted online courses* used by on-campus faculty to ease their transition to online.

Leveraging “Superuser faculty.” Where there is not a ‘standard course’ to use as a foundation for a remote learning course, faculty are being connected with “superusers” in their department who are willing to share their digital content.

“Live online” remote learning courses. Faculty not inclined to go the *retrofitted online* route are given the option to deliver their on-campus courses using Zoom. This platform has been highly effective for hands-on courses like science labs, acting and ceramics. Zoom lectures are delivered via SPC’s D2L platform on dates and at times that the F2F course normally convenes. Zoom Lectures are being recorded and captioned for accessibility during replay.

Scaling video and remote proctoring solutions. Fortunately, video and remote proctoring pilots had begun earlier this year, which facilitated the rapid the adoption and large-scale licensing of these tools. The administration and the College Foundation provided the funding for Zoom and Honorlock.

Summer term and beyond. All previous F2F learning will be online for Summer, either using a *retrofitted quality online course* in D2L, or *live online* using Zoom with some form of faculty-student communication. All faculty teaching remotely are expected to complete the College’s introductory “teaching online” professional development course in the coming weeks. The College has not decided on delivery format for fall term courses.

Unexpected outcomes. Many faculty members who have resisted the option of adopting standard, high quality online courses are now embracing this option. And as faculty members have positive first experiences in remote learning, SPC expects that faculty will choose to adopt more online tools and eventually move from live online with synchronous lectures to asynchronous online learning. Students who were wary of online instruction have also recognized the benefits of live online or remote online course offerings, especially those nearing degree completion.

St. Petersburg College's readiness for a complete summer term of 100% online instruction is enabled by having a large pool of high quality, QM-certified standard courses to repurpose and reuse. Their solid online learning technological and human infrastructure plays an outsized role in keeping the College open during the COVID-19 crisis.