

Illuminate Midwest Regional User Conference Presenter Bios

Tammy Craig is the Director of the Career Development Center and has been an adjunct lecturer for undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of Illinois at Springfield. She has seven years of experience in higher education and eight years of experience in mental health and career counseling specializations. Tammy also is credentialed as an Illinois Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and Distance Credentialed Counselor. As a facilitator, Tammy has presented numerous career workshops, professional development seminars, and classroom presentations. Additionally, Tammy has successfully adapted all office-based career services and programming to be delivered online using a variety of synchronous technologies to educate students in a creative and engaging format.

Dr. Thomas Cook is a Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health where he directs the University of Iowa's Center for International Rural and Environmental Health. He is actively involved in numerous international training efforts sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. For the last three years Dr. Cook has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and is the director of the University of Iowa's Global Health Campus Initiative. Dr. Cook's educational background includes Master of Science degrees from Duke University and Drexel University and a PhD from the University of Iowa.

Shari McCurdy is the Associate Director of the Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning and an adjunct lecturer in the Educational Leadership Program at the University of Illinois at Springfield. She has created, developed and teaches fully online graduate courses in educational technology. McCurdy directs grant projects that examine the assessment of learning outcomes, diversity in the classroom, and the use of synchronous technologies in online learning. She has presented at numerous national technology conferences on topics ranging from best practices in online learning, educational applications of Web 2.0, and faculty workload.

Julian Scheinbuks. As Director of Distance Learning at Chicago State University, Julian expanded online instruction from 10 to over 90 courses. Dr. Scheinbuks has been awarded grants from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to collaborate in the development of online instruction at Chicago State University in with the assistance and collaboration of University of Illinois at Springfield. Additional funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education permitted us to continue collaborating with both the University of Illinois at Springfield and Northern Eastern Illinois University to develop approaches for instituting online teaching partnerships between classes at remote sites for purposes of establishing new course development and cross-disciplinary instruction with a diverse student body. Central to the development of the online teaching partnership was the use of asynchronous tools such as discussion boards etc found within most course management systems and the use of the synchronous tool Illuminate.

Brandon C. Taylor is an Assistant Professor of Instructional Design & Technology at Chicago State University. Prior to his role at Chicago State University, Brandon was the Dean of and adjunct faculty member for the Center for Distance Learning (CDL) at the City Colleges of Chicago. In addition, Brandon has served as an Instructional Designer at CDL, the Director of Distance Learning at Chicago Public Schools, an Instructional Technology Consultant at DePaul University an Instructor for the Illinois Virtual High School and in various other technology/training related roles. Brandon is completing his Ed. D. in Instructional Technology from Northern Illinois University and has a M.S. in Instructional Technology and Graduate Certificate in Distance Learning from Western Illinois University (which he completed 100% via distance learning) a Master Online Teacher certificate from the University of Illinois/Illinois Online Network, a B.S. in Computer Science from Prairie View A&M University and is an alumni of GE's (General Electric) Global Information Management Leadership Program. Brandon is happily married to a K-12 educator, and they have three lovely children.