

Larry Ragan (2019)



Vice President, 2021-2022

President, 2022-2023

Nov 11, 2020: Special Ed Blending Learning Initiative in Cameroon

Dec 8, 2021: Of Faith and Noel: St.Rita's Professional Development Academy

Apr 9, 2025: Learning About Nature Using AI

Lawrence (Larry) Ragan is an accomplished educator and thought leader in the field of instructional design and online learning. Born in Duquesne, PA, a small steel-mill city near Pittsburgh, Larry began his professional journey by teaching high school agricultural education in Fairfield, PA, near Gettysburg. His passion for education and technology led him to pursue a Ph.D. in Instructional Systems at Penn State University, where he specialized in the use of technology for the design and development of learning systems. He earned his PhD from Penn State in 1993. In 1995, Larry joined Penn State's Continuing and Distance Education (now known as Outreach), where he served as the Director of Instructional Design and Faculty Development. Over the years, he played a key role in the university's online and distance education initiatives. From 2012 to 2018, he directed the **Center for Online Innovation in Learning**, advancing Penn State's leadership in digital education. Larry has also co-directed several influential leadership development programs, including the **Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning** and the **Maryland Online Leadership Institute**, collaborating with other higher education institutions and consortiums.

A prolific writer, Larry has authored numerous publications on the subject of online learning and instructional design. He has contributed chapters to influential books, including *Assuring Quality in Online Education: Practices and Processes at Teaching, Resource, and Program Levels* and *Leading the E-Learning Transformation of Higher Education*. Larry has traveled extensively, both nationally and internationally, to deliver keynotes, workshops, and institutional reviews, helping institutions improve their online learning programs. Larry's contributions to the field have been widely recognized. He is a recipient of several awards, including the **Online Learning Consortium's Sloan-C Fellow**, the **EDUCAUSE Faculty Service Award**, the **Recognition of Leadership Award**, and the inaugural **Leadership Award from Quality Matters**. In 2022, he was honored with the **Sulphur Award** from the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited for his leadership in providing educational programming.

Larry retired from Penn State in 2018 but has remained active as a consultant, supporting national and international organizations in areas of online learning and instructional design. He also directs the design, development, and delivery of the **Saint Rita Professional Development Academy**, which provides training for teachers in Buea, Cameroon, with a focus on special education. Outside of his professional work, Larry is an avid gardener and enjoys fly fishing in the waters of Centre County, PA. His lifelong commitment to education and his dedication to the advancement of online learning continue to impact educators and learners around the world. He and his wife Laurie have three adult children. Larry and Laurie reside in State College, PA.

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