



## Sea to Summit: Going the Distance

Western Region NC3ADL Conference

March 18, 2024

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

hosted by Catawba Valley Community College

2550 US Hwy 70 SE | Hickory, NC | 28602

### **Check-in & Registration (9:00 am – 9:30 am)**

### **Charting a New Course (9:30 am -10:45 am)**

**Presenter:** Dr. Elizabeth Braun, Catawba Valley Community College

**Title:** Hyflex Classes: Opportunities and Challenges

**Description:** This interactive session will include a brief presentation on course modalities and the teaching opportunities that lie within. Then participants will engage in round table discussions sharing how hyflex classes run at their institutions, what technical resources are needed, and best practices for student engagement in these modalities.

### **Navigating Change (11:00 am – 12:15 pm)**

**Presenter:** Jo James, MBA, Ed.S., Isothermal Community College

**Title:** Navigating Change in Distance Learning: Essential Leadership and Adaptation Skills for Beginners

**Description:** Managing change in today's educational landscape provides both a challenge and an opportunity. Understanding how to adapt and lead through change is crucial, as distance education impacts many aspects of the community college. This workshop is specifically designed to provide participants with the fundamental knowledge and strategies needed to navigate change effectively while cultivating essential leadership practices.

### **Lunch & Networking (12:15 pm – 1:30 pm)**

### **Reaching New Heights of Engagement (1:30 pm – 2:45 pm)**

**Presenter:** Dr. Sarah Parlier, Blue-Ridge Community College

**Title:** A Coach in Their Corner: The Important Role DL Staff and PLLs Play in Increasing RSI in Online Courses

**Description:** The presenter will describe the structural changes a college can put into place to increase RSI in online courses and the various supports that DL Staff and PLLs can offer. Academic leadership, department documentation, professional learning sessions, faculty learning communities, course development, and individual assistance will be discussed. The session will promote an open sharing of ideas among attendees.

### **Closing (2:45 pm - 3:00 pm)**

## **Charting a New Course (9:30 am -10:45 am)**

**Presenter:** Dr. Elizabeth Braun, Catawba Valley Community College  
Department Chair, Rhetoric & Composition, Catawba Valley Community College; Co-director,  
North Carolina Teaching and Learning West Hub

**Title:** Hyflex Classes: Opportunities and Challenges

**Bio:** Dr. Elizabeth Braun is Department Chair of Rhetoric and Composition at Catawba Valley Community College, in Hickory, North Carolina. She also serves as co-director for the North Carolina West Teaching & Learning Hub, which provides professional development to faculty and staff across 16 North Carolina Community Colleges in the western part of the state. Dr. Braun has been a student and faculty advocate via her work with faculty senate, the Center for Professional Excellence, and Quality Matters. She has a bachelor's degree in English Education, a master's degree in education, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership and Development. She has been a classroom instructor for nearly three decades and has been actively involved in the planning and delivery of professional development in the US and abroad. She is taking part in the first cohort of instructors to achieve the North Carolina Community College Master Instructor certification. When she's not involved in student success and professional development, she enjoys reading, gardening, and a variety of fiber arts such as sewing, crochet, and tie dye.



## **Navigating Change (11:00 am – 12:15 pm)**

**Presenter:** Jo James, MBA, Ed.S., Isothermal Community College, Coordinator of Technology-Enhanced Learning, IT Department, Isothermal Community College

**Title:** Navigating Change in Distance Learning: Essential Leadership and Adaptation Skills for Beginners

**Bio:** Jo James has been employed by Isothermal Community College since January 2000. Currently, she is the Coordinator of Technology-Enhanced Learning at Isothermal Community College. In this role, Jo is the Moodle Administrator, oversees compliance with State Authorization, and serves in the Teaching & Learning Center for faculty and staff professional development. Previously, she served as lead instructor for Computer Programming and Web Technology programs at Isothermal prior to moving to distance learning. In her 22+ years in higher education, Jo has gained insight into the demands placed upon faculty to teach online as well as students to be successful in an e-learning environment.



## **Reaching New Heights of Engagement (1:30 pm – 2:45 pm)**

**Presenter:** Dr. Sarah Parlier, Blue-Ridge Community College, Director of Teaching and Learning, Blue Ridge Community College

**Title:** A Coach in Their Corner: The Important Role DL Staff and PLLs Play in Increasing RSI in Online Courses

**Bio:** Dr. Sarah Parlier is the Director of Teaching and Learning at Blue Ridge Community College, serving Henderson and Transylvania Counties. She has twenty-five years of teaching experience including K-12 language arts, community college, and private, young adult education settings. Sarah and her team support the LMS, provide instructional design guidance and solutions, staff the Teaching and Learning Center and Faculty Rich Media Lab, facilitate monthly professional development events, and facilitate the college's new faculty orientation and mentoring programs.

