

## **Technological Programs are Poised to Move Online**

Kaye McKinzie, University of Central Arkansas

[kmckinzie@uca.edu](mailto:kmckinzie@uca.edu)

Vance Johnson Lewis, University of Central Arkansas

[vlewis@uca.edu](mailto:vlewis@uca.edu)

Due to a steadily declining birth rate over the past 20 years in the United States, higher education must now brace for the resulting decline in high school graduates. Given that time traveling to produce more students is impossible, we must be prepared to either tighten our ever-shrinking budgets or find new sources of potential students. While for many programs, belt-tightening may be the only option, technical programs are poised to take advantage of this era to use the advances in technology in their favor. Because technology continues to advance, career opportunities in technology-based fields have become available and attractive to early career seekers thus creating an almost cyclical free advertising for college degree and certificate programs. Whether we are talking about business analytics, networks, systems, or computing, these fields are expanding rapidly thus creating the immediate need for foundational teaching to enter the market quickly along with intermediate and advanced training to keep skills current within the market. Over the last 20 years, there have been many attempts to move traditional programs to online delivery, with quite varied results; however, as technological needs have increased in the business world, so too have the technical capabilities to deliver these programs. This presentation provides an overview for transferring traditional programs to an online delivery along with a current example of how to implement these transitions.

*Keywords: higher education, online, technology*