

# Online WTCS/eTech Certification Collaboration Project

## Overview

Last spring, the WTCS Statewide Professional Development Team identified the need for more opportunities for certified staff to complete the courses required for renewal of their certification. The challenge was to create a project where colleges work collaboratively to maximize resources. This resulted in unanimous agreement to utilize eTech for offering the certification courses and thus a collaborative project was created with eTech and the WTCS State Office. For more background on the project, visit the eTech website at [http://www.etechcollege.org/faculty\\_certification.php](http://www.etechcollege.org/faculty_certification.php)

The courses offered so far have been met with high interest and high completion rates. As one attendee commented, "I am so glad that this was offered because I wasn't sure how I was going to complete my requirements."

Recognition and thanks must be extended to our instructors, who have worked to modify content for the online environment, as well as provide an interactive, high quality experience for participants. We extend special thanks to Deb Walsh (WWTC), Robert Henri McNeree (NWTC), and Beth Hennes (NWTC) for providing their teaching expertise.

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b># Enrolled/Completions</b>
<i>Fall 2006 (in progress)</i>	<i>#51 – VTAE in WTCS</i>	<i>13/pending</i>
<i>Fall 2006 (in progress)</i>	<i>#58 – Leadership and Supervision</i>	<i>8/pending</i>
<i>Summer 2006</i>	<i>#69 – Diversity</i>	<i>16/11</i>
<i>Spring 2006</i>	<i>#58 – Leadership and Supervision</i>	<i>16/15</i>

## Planned Spring 2007 Courses

#54 – Educational Evaluation

#69 – Diversity

## Proposed Summer 2007 Courses

These are not set at this point and are open to discussion. We would like to choose TWO of these to run.

#58 – Leadership and Supervision

#51 – VTAE in WTCS

#53 (Ed. Psych) and #55 (Guidance and Counseling) could be considered if an online course is currently available.

## Active Instructor Pool

We are actively recruiting new instructors to teach online WTCS Certification courses either by self-referral or by another party. Anyone interested is asked to complete a form detailing his or

her experiences and interest. Upon receiving the form, it will be reviewed by Sharon Spangberg and representatives of the Certification Project Committee to determine eligibility and suitability for teaching in the project.

Current Instructors include:

#51 – Beth Hennes (NWTC)

#54 – Cindi Thiede (Nicolet)

#58 – Deb Walsh (WWTC)

#69 – Henri Robert Neree (NWTC)

### ***Long Term Vision of the Project***

- a) To have more than one course offered at a time.
- b) Set a schedule that districts can plan around.
- c) Continue process of collecting all online certification materials to see which courses need to be developed for online learning.
- d) All course materials used within the collaborative project will be available for use by individual districts.
- e) Districts share course materials and resources to add to the project courses in an effort to increase resources for instructors and participants.

### ***Project Background and Supporting Information: WTCS Certification Educational Requirements***

#### *Collaborative Delivery Approaches*

#### **Project Goals:**

Pilot a shared delivery model in relation to the state certification educational requirements in an effort to:

1. Provide greater flexibility to learners.
2. Develop greater numbers of options for targeted faculty.
3. Maximize efficiency in delivery through shared strategies.
4. Improve the quality of courses through collaborative approaches, exchanging best practices, and sharing top resources unique to districts.
5. Model exemplary approaches to online teaching and learning.

#### **Recommended Strategies—State Certification Workgroup:**

A workgroup led by Sharon Spangberg, state education director, has met on several occasions to strategize. The group recommended piloting “two tracks” as a way to facilitate collaboration to

achieve the above goals:

- **Track 1:** Market available “seats” from individual district training options.
- **Track 2:** Develop, market, and implement a shared, system-wide online training option through eTech--a place where we can congregate top teachers/facilitators and course models and share those valuable resources throughout our System.

### **Advantages:**

- Districts are better able to maximize existing efforts and are also provided a single, common “option” they can use at their discretion.
- Fiscal stewards within districts remain in control and can determine whether they want to hire adjunct faculty for low-enrollment courses, or if they’d be better served by pointing these students towards an “umbrella” course.
- A means to maximize efficiencies while also providing a path in which to share top resources and best practices.

### **Planning Committee**

Sharon Spangerg (WTCS), Tina Rettler (eTech), Brent Nelson (eTech), Jim Begotka (NWTC), Jeanne Williams (BTC), Ken Urban (MSTC), Joanne Hencken (MPTC), Ann Hope (NTC), Margo Keys (CVTC), Janet Jablonski (MATC).