**Melissa J. Benton**

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**PROFILE**

* 5+ years of hands-on experience in adult learning including the recruitment, sustainability, design, development, and delivery of key learning assets; create inclusive and engaging learning environments that allow adult learners to grow personally and professionally.
* Collaborate with Advisory Team, Office of Admission, and Student Services
* Develop courses that support sustainment and enrollment in college programs and the school.
* Develop training programs for higher level institutions and for business entities in the St. Louis and surrounding areas.
* Foster a creative approach to learning using best practices in democratic and collaborative learning using face-to-face, web-enhanced and online formats.
* Include emerging and mediated technology into various learning contexts; proficient using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint and Learning Management Software.
* Use strong project management skills to coordinate multiple learning contexts simultaneously, including oversight of tasks and matrials produced; employ strong communication, problem solving, and decision making skills even under stressful circumstances.

**Education**

ED. D. Educational Practice with an Emphasis in STEM, University of Missouri – St. Louis

M.A. Communication Management, Webster University- St. Louis

B.A. Speech Communications, Webster University – St. Louis

**Professional Certifications**

*Coach Training World- Associate Certified Coach training*

*Banner and Blackboard*

*Google Suite*

*Adobe Video Presentation and Resources*

*Ageless Teaching Seminar*

*Classroom Management and Assessment*

*Public Relations: A Tangible Assessment*

*Public Speaking: Innovative Classroom Tools*

*Quality Matters (QM)*

*Teaching the Androgynous Student*

*Traditional vs. Current Competencies*

*Using Meager Principles to Write Competencies*

**Professional Experience**

**Instructor / Instructional Design / Project Management**

St. Charles Community College

August 2018 – Present

* Promote student involvement in cultural activities, leadership experiences, student organizations and project workshops
* Maintain documents
* Collaborate with Student Services, Office Admission to assist students and serve as guest speakers in the classroom
* Learned new online platform: Canvas
* Set up community engagement activities to promote college, students and the course.
* Teach face-to-face and eLearning classes that use a unique blend of democratic and collaborative style teaching that increase sustaining and recruitment into Communication Department.
* Effectively engage students in learning using scenario-based learning, gamification, and integrated learning that incorporates current culture into the learning context. These programs were designed to increase sustainability and recruitment into the courses
* Courses taught *Public Relations*, *Oral Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking* and *College Success Seminar*.

Lindenwood University

August 2013 – Present

* Curriculum included ways to connect with administration services for sustainability and student engagement
* Leveraged an individual learning approach while redesigning the college’s General Education Speech Communication course.
* Effectively integrate best practices in adult learning and engage learners using aural, visual, and kinesthetic learning activities.
* Course taught include *Speech Communication*

Missouri Baptist University

January 2013 – Present

* Collaborate with program administrators on course curriculum and rubric development for the debate and forensics component of the Speech Certification program.
* Served as a catalyst for the continued professional development of communication students by connecting them with local high school speech programs.
* Courses taught include *Speech Communications* and *Speech and Debate*.

Webster University

August 2010 – Present

* Promote student involvement in cultural activities, leadership experiences, student organizations and project workshops
* Serve on committees: First Year Seminar, Global Citizenship Program (provide students with a multicultural and global experience), Faculty Development
* Active recruitment and sustaining program to keep enrollment in college and Speech Program.
* Active member of Speech and Theatre of Missouri.
* Promote the Teaching Education and Communications department to recruit and sustain students in the program.
* First Year Seminar Program -work with students who are first generation to college, provide multicultural globalized education experience for students.
* Conduct course evaluations as part of the University’s Global Citizenship program to ensure effective implementation and evaluation of speech communications studies.
* Active and contributing member of the world-wide Teaching and Learning community through the University’s multiple colleges.
* Chosen to present at the annual Webster University Teaching Festival.
* Designed and facilitated multiple courses including *Public Speaking, Communication in Education, Small Group Communication, Persuasion,* and *Interpersonal Communication*.

Ranken Technical College

December 2010 - Present

* Collaborate with the Trio and Student Services to aid students in coarse work in my class and other classes.
* Created and implemented an online course that prepared students for the work force in coordination with the Dean of Students.
* Successfully integrated web 3.0 tools to engage students in and outside of the classroom.
* Created academic and behavioral assessments for evaluation of student learning.
* Courses taught include *Business Communication*, *Oral Communications, and Fundamentals of Composition*.

St. Louis Community College

August 2009 - Present

* Promote student involvement in cultural activities, leadership experiences, student organizations and project workshops
* Served as faculty liaison for cultural activities, leadership experiences, and student organizations
* Volunteered to work with advising team on project workshops
* Collaborate with Department Chairs of Interdisciplinary Courses and Humanities to integrate forensics and debate into the learning process.
* Recruited judges from local businesses and community members
* Hosted the College’s first intramural debate tournament and served as a catalyst for students to successfully compete in local, regional and national collegiate debate tournaments.
* Assisted with service-learning projects and created a project called “Artifact Communication Share.”
* Served on the textbook reviewing committee for the Communications Department.
* Advise students in pathways to continuing their education; successfully helped one student secure a full-ride scholarship for undergraduate and graduate studies at Webster University.
* Courses taught: *Mass Communication, Oral Communication, and Introduction to Argumentation*

**Coach / Instructional Design / Project Management**

St. Louis Bar Association

August 2005-August 2008 and August 2011 – August 2013 (Summers Only)

* Designed and created a curriculum that helps students to critically analyze a legal case and design a winning defense or prosecution case
* Coached students to successfully win cases with a 95 percent success rate.
* Supported students who earned awards and scholarships including the Gates Millennium Scholars Program to St. Louis University.
* Provided students with individual and group mentoring sessions before and after competitions.

**Professional Speaking**

“16-Minute Debate: Creative Learning in the Classroom.” Webster University, Teaching and Learning Festival, St. Louis, MO.

“Assertive Communication in the Workplace.” Webster University, Communications Department Staff Training, St. Louis, MO.

“Imagine the Story.” St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis, MO.

“Presenting in the Workplace.” Enterprise Rental Car, St. Louis, MO.

“The Non-Traditional Student.” Toastmasters Regional Conference, Maryland Heights, Mo.