OIT Faculty Spotlight

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Transcript
I am passionate about technology and using technology to help students learn and to facilitate learning. I also enjoy teaching students technology. Being able to put this particular class online, not only did it meet the department needs, it meets the needs of the students. But it also provides me an outlet to help students and facilitate students' learning of technology using technology. This particular class is one I've enjoyed teaching face to face; and being able to take it online was something I’ve looked forward to doing for quite a while. We use the same exact assignments. The difference is that lectures that you would get face-to-face are now in terms of PowerPoint presentations, they are in terms of videos that have been done; and they’re all put together in lessons that are online. So for the most part the course content hasn’t changed from the days of face-to-face. The delivery method for the lectures, part of if, has. I think the biggest obstacle for teaching online is communication. Your communication skills improved drastically because you have to be very clear on your assignments. You can't take questions in class umm and repeat something. Therefore, your communication has to be very clear, very concise. When the students need help in this class, they have three ways that they can get help. First is via the email. We have an online email site. It’s monitored not only by myself, but by the TAs. So there are three people monitoring it all times. We also can set up office hours. The other way we can help the students is that we use Blackboard Collaborate where I go into collaboration room at a given time the students know that they can come in and ask questions. So when putting a class online start with your own material. You don’t have to reinvent the wheel. You can go to get help from OIT the Faculty First grant. They helped me a lot putting the SharePoint together. And they’ve helped us with getting the equipment that we need to do this. They helped by setting up a website for us. And without that support this class wouldn’t have happened online. I think being able to teach online and learning how to do that now is very important for teachers. I think you need to start using technology. It’s where we are and it’s where we're going. And as it changes and grows as teachers, as professors we’re going to have to change and grow with it.