

CTU's Dr. Connie Johnson Appointed to OLC's Bill and Melinda Gates Grant Advisory Committee

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[Dr. Connie Johnson \(/academics/profiles/academic-leadership/connie-johnson\)](/academics/profiles/academic-leadership/connie-johnson/), Provost and Chief Academic Officer of Colorado Technical University, was recently appointed to the [Online Learning Consortium \(http://onlinelearningconsortium.org/\)](http://onlinelearningconsortium.org/)'s (OLC) Bill and Melinda Gates Grant Advisory Committee (GAC). OLC is seeking to tap Johnson's decades of experience in online learning as it oversees distribution of a \$2.5 million grant for the development and deployment of advanced digital courseware solutions — the same types of digital solutions that serve as the foundation of CTU's online learning platform.

"It's a great honor to serve on the Online Learning Consortium's (OLC) advisory committee," Dr. Johnson said after receiving notice of the appointment.

"Advancements in online learning are accelerating at a rapid pace, and through the generous involvement of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we will continue to make great strides in creating significant opportunities for those seeking an online, higher education degree."



As a 20-year veteran of higher education with a focus on the implementation of [adaptive learning \(/online-degree-programs/intellipath\)](/online-degree-programs/intellipath/) technology in the online classroom, Dr. Johnson brings considerable professional experience and insights to the GAC, whose underlying goal is to enhance outcomes in general education courses, especially those that target disadvantaged and underserved student groups. In accepting the grant, OLC announced that the money will fund two specific OLC initiatives: a prize competition that recognizes institutions and faculty that effectively use digital courseware; and the expansion of OLC's Quality Scorecard, a primary tool used to evaluate and improve online learning programs.

CTU has worked closely with the OLC ([formerly The Sloan Consortium \(http://onlinelearningconsortium.org/news_item/online-learning-consortium-awarded-adaptive-learning-grant/\)](http://onlinelearningconsortium.org/news_item/online-learning-consortium-awarded-adaptive-learning-grant/)), a professional organization devoted to online learning, in advancing the quality of its online courses. Dr. Johnson praised the OLC's ongoing work while emphasizing the critical role that online learning plays in creating opportunities for all students.

"As the gap widens among students of low-, middle-, and upper-income brackets, improving the quality and adoption rate of digital courseware is critical for providing educational opportunities, no matter the economic challenges," Dr. Johnson said. "I look forward to working with OLC and my fellow committee members as we drive improvements in online learning while raising industry-wide standards."

Find out more about CTU's adaptive learning technology, intellipath™, by watching [this video \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH1weeHxwCA\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH1weeHxwCA).

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