

From the ICELW 2012 Conference Chair

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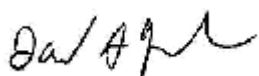
It has been my pleasure to chair the fifth annual International Conference on E-Learning in the Workplace (ICELW) in 2012. We were very pleased to have Dr. Ruth Clark and Dr. Saul Carliner as our keynote speakers, and a program featuring presenters from 30 countries. As the founding chair of ICELW, I have been ecstatic to see the continued growth of the conference and the quality of work presented each year.

The ICELW program once again included an increased focus on just-in-time “performance support” along with training, numerous demonstrations of successful approaches to e-learning, and discussions of informal learning and where it fits--and doesn't fit--in the workplace (particularly Dr. Carliner's keynote). Dr. Clark's keynote, which focused on research and how to apply it, set the tone for a conference that was created to help bridge the gap between research and practice.

Once again this year--and I have said something similar on virtually an annual basis--we remain at a time of great, but often unrealized, potential in workplace e-learning. Technology has people excited about the possibilities, yet we need a continued focus on ways to design pedagogically-sound e-learning and usable, effective performance support products and methods. Informal learning and social media certainly have key roles as well, but they do not remove the need for structured experiences and for all sorts of uses of performance-improvement technology that can be used in more "individual" ways. The use of mobile devices for learning and performance support is becoming more and more widespread, as anticipated--again this provides us with great opportunities to design creative, effective ways to make use of the technology.

Both ICELW and iJAC are avenues through which we can integrate research and practice in order to improve job performance. Our mix of researchers and practitioners at ICELW and in iJAC is, in my view, one of the strengths of both the conference and the journal, as we look to advance the field in ways that are practical yet based on research and theory.

I would like to thank all of our presenters and participants, as well as our Executive Committee, International Program Committee, keynote speakers, and our wonderful staff, for a great ICELW 2012, as we already look toward ICELW 2013. Next year's conference will be held from June 12-14, 2013, again at Columbia University in New York. As always, I look forward to seeing continued work from iJAC and ICELW play a major role in influencing and improving the field of e-learning in the workplace.



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