From the ICELW 2008 Conference Chair

While there have certainly been some nice success stories over the years, e-learning in the business world is still full of unrealized potential. Online learning and electronic performance support have the ability to transform business processes and job performance in a much more substantial, widespread way than we have seen so far. One reason for the gap between potential and reality has been the growth of academic e-learning research and corporate implementation as very separate areas, with relatively little communication between the two. Thus we have found ourselves with new research ideas which have practical application, and companies with practical problems and a need for new ideas—but without enough connections between the two. It has been my pleasure to introduce the International Conference on E-Learning in the Workplace (ICELW). ICELW 2008, held on the campus of Teachers College at Columbia University in New York, brought together people from academia and industry, and from around the world. With 29 countries represented and strong participation from the International E-Learning Association (IELA), ICELW truly integrated different cultures, different ideas, and different viewpoints.

The conference focused on both training and performance support, featuring a keynote speech from electronic performance support expert Gary Dickelman, a simulation and case-based learning demonstration session led by Rikke Orngreen and myself, and a panel discussion on performance support led by Hal Christensen.

I'd like to thank all of our presenters and participants, as well as our Executive Committee, International Program Committee, and our wonderful staff, for a great inaugural ICELW, as we already look toward ICELW 2009, to be held in June 2009 in New York. I'm very pleased that this first issue of iJAC is focusing on selected papers from ICELW, and look forward to seeing continued work from iJAC and ICELW to play a major role in influencing and improving the field of e-learning in the workplace.

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