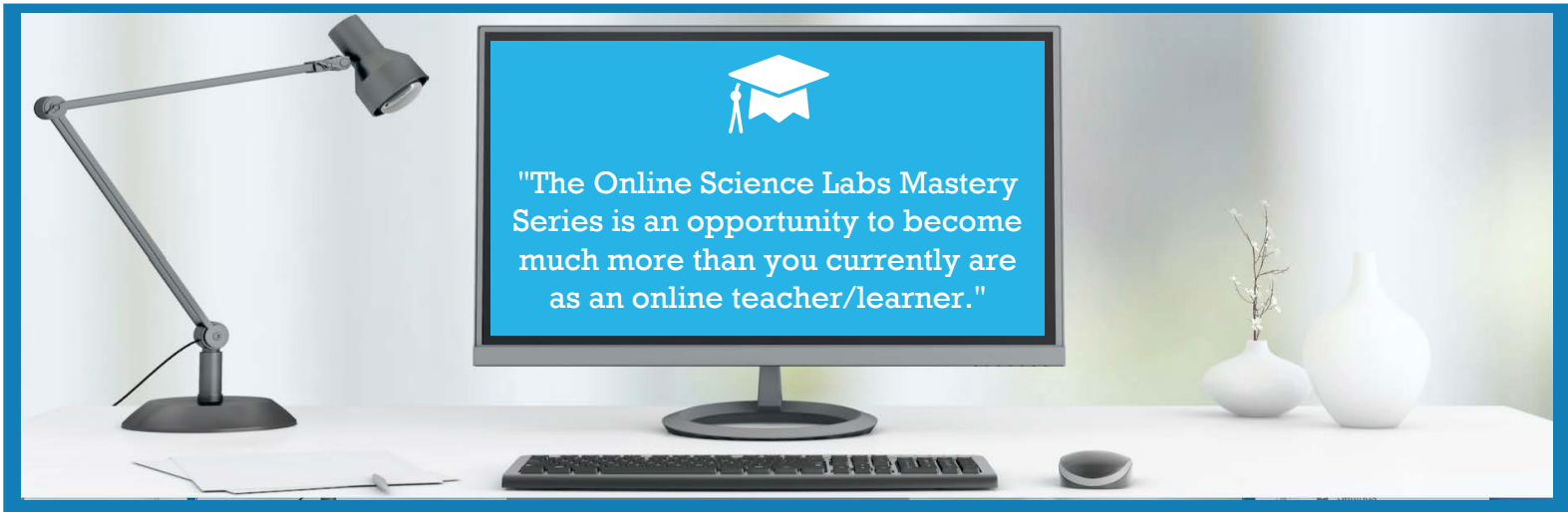


"I needed the OLC Mastery Series for guidance and support in design and teaching science labs online. The program provides a plethora of possibilities."

*Joan Esterline Lafuze, Professor of Biology, Indiana University East*



## Mastering Virtual Science Labs in the Online Classroom

### How did you hear about the OLC Mastery Series Program?

I learned about the OLC Mastery Series through connections at Indiana University. Over two decades ago, I began "closing the distance," by using distance learning technologies. When the first mastery series about teaching science labs online was announced, I was determined to be a participant.

### Why the need/interest in the OLC Mastery Series?

Providing a student-centered learning opportunity for undergraduate learners is a perilous adventure. At first there were only a few students, so I managed to carry the distance learners in addition to my face-to-face students. Even administrators directly above me questioned teaching science, especially science with labs online, but as administrative changes took place, I was encouraged and cheered on by my peers and administrators.

With that being said, acceptance beyond my local campus has been a challenge. There are still many programs that will not accept online science labs such as anatomy and physiology. I needed the OLC Mastery Series for guidance and support to teach these subjects.

### How did the program help you in your position/career?

- 1) The participants in the program were from diverse situations and at varying points on the journey toward teaching science labs online. In sharing that diversity, we functioned as a team.
- 2) The leadership supported and encouraged each of us by acknowledging each one's unique approach and skills.
- 3) Being a series, the program provides a plethora of possibilities. It was not simply a "support group" although it provided support.

### To whom and why you would recommend the program?

I would recommend the OLC Mastery Series to anyone and everyone who has an interest in online learning. We had some on our team who were experts and others who had not yet taught labs online. Finding a Mastery Series that is relevant to one's interest is critical; however there are some that are so general that they would meet needs of most people interested in online teaching and learning.

## TOP OLC MASTERY SERIES BENEFITS

- > Explores relevant research and literature in the mastery series topic
- > Provides practical solutions for instructional challenges
- > Provides a diversity of experiences and perspectives
- > Fosters collaborative learning opportunities with colleagues from around the world

### About Joan



Joan Esterline Lafuze is a systems medical physiologist who was educated to conduct research and teach medical, dental and graduate students the integrative and dynamic functions of the human body. This combination has allowed her to integrate teaching and research into undergraduate education.

**Find an OLC Mastery Series that best meets your professional development needs.**

Explore relevant research and use that research to help you design an effective teaching and learning environment. OLC now offers eight Mastery Series topics: Mobile Learning, Online Science Labs, Social Media, Blended Learning, Online Nursing, Instructional Design, Quality Scorecard, Leadership in Online Learning.

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