

# CONNECT:ED

ADULT & GRADUATE STUDIES FACULTY  
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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Issue: 1



## Let's Get Connect:ED

AGS Faculty, welcome to 2015! We are kicking off the new year with the launch of Connect:ED, a faculty development and communication newsletter. Here at OKWU, our faculty has been recognized as one of the best in the nation. We want to keep building on that greatness! As adjunct faculty in our online classes and various evening program campuses in Oklahoma and Kansas, you are the front-lines of our mission as a Christian liberal arts university. The whole AGS team is committed to helping each of you be successful in your calling as Christian professors.

To this end, each edition of Connect:ED will include relevant articles related to various aspects of adult higher education and teaching. We constantly browse the web for new insights, tools, research, and practices to bring you those items that may help encourage you, inspire you, or help you develop new tools or strategies. We will also give you regular news updates about OKWU and the AGS program in general, as well as feature spotlights on current students, faculty, and staff.

- Dr. Bryan Easley, Dean of Online Education
- Patricia Leggett, Dean of AGS Daily Operations

Phillip Fansler, Sheilah Graham, and Ashley Janzen became lifelong friends as they completed their Organizational Management program online.

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**Adjunct Faculty Meeting:  
Refocus on Mission and**

## From the Desk of Dr. Easley

Over the last few months, I have been developing a model to help describe what a quality faculty member looks like. I've had some great help from a few colleagues to sharpen and grow this tool, and it's very much a work in-progress. But we will be rolling it out as a core component in our approach to teaching in the OKWU AGS program. The model consists of 4 Core Qualities of productive, effective higher education instructors, whether adjunct or full-time. These qualities are Competence, Caring, Commitment, and Connection: [Read more...](#)



## Fall Commencement 2014

by Patricia Leggett

On Saturday, December 13, 2014, 181 AGS students were honored during Fall Commencement Ceremony. When I think about this group of graduates, one word comes to mind:

*perseverance*. Several students persevered while receiving chemotherapy; one student lost her husband during the program; one student drove away from her home to escape a tornado in northeast Oklahoma; one student gave birth. Students wore multiple hats personally and professionally as they persevered towards graduation. Having achieved this goal, though, several have been promoted, a couple have gotten new jobs, and several are continuing with OKWU to earn another degree. Thank you for your investment into their lives. It is seed sown in good ground. [Read more...](#)



Thank you, faculty, for honoring our graduates.

## Blackboard Discussion Boards

by Sean Stedwell, Instructional Designer

Hello Faculty! Today I'd like to give you a brief introduction on how the Blackboard discussion board works. In an online class, the discussion board is the primary way students communicate and participate in class. For face-to-face courses, the discussion board can be a great place to share information before class or to keep the conversation going after and engaging class discussion. [Read more...](#)



## Students Riding on Coattails during Group Work? Five Simple Ideas to Try

by Li-Shih Huang, PhD

## Excellence



President Piper will address AGS faculty at next faculty meeting!

Saturday, January 31, 2015, Tulsa Centre.

10810 E. 45th St., Tulsa OK, 74146 [Map](#)

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

[Click here for details.](#)

## Spotlight: Sarah Cochran



In the Connect:ED Spotlight, we will introduce you to a different member of the AGS or OKWU faculty, staff, and even the student body. Our first Spotlight features Sarah Cochran, Faculty and Curriculum Support Coordinator for OKWU Online. Sarah, who joined the team in March of 2014, will now be working closely with our online faculty in course scheduling, training, mentoring, and support issues related to curriculum and resources. For those of you teaching online courses, Sarah will be now the one you will hear from for your teaching assignments or textbook or materials related-questions. Sarah also coordinates the training and mentoring of new online faculty. She also is the

The idea for sharing this post came from a session I recently conducted at the annual teaching conference organized by my university. A pedagogical conundrum was raised by a colleague whose enthusiasm and question stayed with me and inspired me to write this post. The question posed by this colleague is relevant to all instructors who have ever used group work to assess their students:



*How should one deal with the issues that arise when members of a group are not picking up their share of the responsibilities during a group work project?*

[Read more...](#)

editor of the Connect:ED faculty newsletter. Online faculty, you are encouraged to contact Sarah with any questions or concerns you may have regarding schedules, resources, training, or curriculum-related issues. [Read Sarah's bio here...](#)

## Did I Plagiarize?

Need a great visual tool to help you or your students better understand what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it? The Visual Communication Guy blog has a great infographic tool that does just that. This chart shows the different forms and severity of plagiarism using a yes/no question tree to help make the link between writing & research practices and a final draft.



[You can download the PDF of the chart from the blog site here.](#)

## Perspective

by Yvonne Castillo, Online MBA Student

I do recommend OKWU to anyone who is considering taking college courses. When people ask me what school I attend, I proudly tell them I am a student at OKWU and then I immediately send them the link to the university website.

I consider myself a sponge for knowledge. I know it sounds funny, but I love learning and OKWU's curriculum is exceptional. It has to be because it made a believer out of me. [Read more...](#)