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**POD Network Conference Materials** 

Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education

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## Join the POD Network

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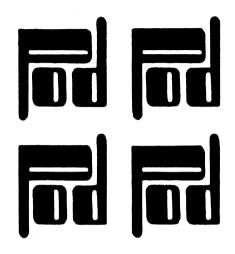


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## Join the POD Network



PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Dedicated to Improving Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

#### What is the POD Network?

The Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education is devoted to improving teaching and learning in post secondary education. Founded in 1975, POD provides its members with personal and academic relationships that are essential for professional growth.

POD's membership is diverse. We are faculty and instructional development center staff, department chairs, faculty, deans, students services staff, chief academic officers, and educational consultants from across the United States and Canada. We work in a variety of post-secondary settings: public and private institutions, two-year colleges and graduate universities, small colleges and multiversities, and educational service organizations. We view ourselves as change agents, providing leadership for the improvement of teaching and learning. We work to help develop the faculty, the instruction, the organization, the administrators, and the students.

POD members' professional activities and interests are diverse. Here are a few:

- Assisting faculty to develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills in their students
- Assisting faculty with the design of courses and curricula
- Improving instruction through classroom research
- Using data to improve the evaluation of instruction
- Assessing instructional and programmatic outcomes

- Gaining administration and faculty support for new programs
- Teaching effective management skills to department chairs
- Helping committees function more effectively
- Implementing organizational change

Although our responsibilities and activities differ, POD members share the belief that institutions are strengthened when their members find opportunities for personal and professional growth, for innovation and experimentation, for change and renewal. POD members, in turn, provide such opportunities for colleagues on their own and other campuses.

Like many professional associations, the POD Network facilitates the exchange of information and ideas, the development of professional skills, the exploration and debate of educational issues, and the sharing of expertise and resources. However, POD connections have an added dimension. From the beginning, POD has recognized that its members seek new ideas and fresh perspectives, but they also seek affiliation and support, and colleagues with whom to collaborate. Thus, the POD Network connects people with people more effectively than do most other professional organizations.

Opportunities to become actively involved in POD are numerous. Our executive board, called the Core Committee, is comprised of members who have nominated themselves to stand for election by their colleagues. Officers and committee chairs are selected by the Core Committee from among its own members. However, participation by other POD members in POD activities is extensive. The POD Network is a very open organization, encouraging members to choose their own levels of participation.

#### Why Should You Join POD?

You should join the POD Network in Higher Education:

- if you are involved in efforts to improve the quality of teaching and learning in your organization.
- if you have responsibilities in faculty, instructional, organizational, professional, administrative, or student development.
- if our philosophy and purposes are appealing.
- if your professional interests and needs are shared by POD members.
- if you wish to expand or reinforce your professional network.
- if you desire an outlet for exploring your professional concerns and those of your institution.
- if you seek a supportive environment for sharing your expertise and nurturing your professional and personal growth.
- if you identify other needs that might be met by contact with POD members and participation in POD activities.

## For further information write to:

Dr. Delivee Wright
POD Network
Teaching and Learning Center
University of Nebraska
121 Benton Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588

# How Can POD Help You Achieve Your Personal and Professional Goals?

An increasing number of POD programs, products, and activities serve member needs. These include:

- An annual conference unlike most other conferences you attend. The ambiance of this three-day event is designed to satisfy professional and personal needs, to nurture growth, innovation and change; and to enable people to exchange ideas and add to their professional network. With few exceptions, conference sessions are small and characterized by much group interaction and involvement — no paper reading here! The setting is away from the noise and distractions of the city center, yet readily accessible to a major airport. The development of true community spirit and warm friendships is typical. Flexibility, as well as highly interactive sessions in relatively small groups help assure the satisfaction of individual needs. These characteristics of the annual conference are highly prized by our members.
- An annual membership directory and networking guide identifies those who share your experiences, needs, and interests.
- A newsletter from the Executive Director not only communicates POD business, but also informs you of other professional development opportunities.
- An annual sourcebook entitled TO IMPROVE THE ACADEMY offers you a range of materials on teaching and learning written by POD members. Some articles present theoretical perspectives and experiential insights; others describe programs and approaches; still others offer practical strategies and workshop materials.

- A Handbook for New Practitioners gives you concrete, practical "how to" guidance for accomplishing developmental tasks effectively. Also written by members and covering the gamut of developmental activities, the Handbook is periodically updated and revised.
- A research program allows POD to award seed money each year to members with good ideas and limited financial resources. Results of this work are ultimately reported at the annual conference or in the pages of To Improve the Academy.
- Occasional publications such as the Bright Idea Network, a collection of innovative ideas generated by members at the annual conference that have improved the quality of teaching and learning. The success of these conference exercises has resulted in an annual Bright Idea Award program at the conference and the publication of the ideas generated in the Bright Idea Network.

#### Why Have Others Joined POD?

POD helped me enormously even before I joined. I received information, encouragement, referrals and many other kinds of assistance from 100% of the members I contacted. Far and away the most enriching and supportive professional organization I've belonged to.

...A development center director

I have participated in every Annual POD Conference since 1976, save one. It is the only professional meeting I attend primarily for self-renewal. It always feels good.

...An instructional development manager

My first POD Conference introduced me to a whole new type of convention: one where workshops were truly practical, participants were just as important as presenters, an atmosphere of openness and warmth underscored a real dedication to teaching, and strangers quickly became colleagues and friends.

...An academic administrator

#### 1990-91 CORE COMMITTEE

The Core Committee establishes POD's policies and programs in response to member needs and interests, and it manages the activities of the POD Network.

Delivee Wright 1989-91 Executive Director-Administration University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE	(402)	472-3079
Emily (Rusty) Wadsworth 1989-91 Executive Director-Programs McHenry Community College, Crystal Lake, IL	(815)	455-8561
Howard Altman University of Louisville, Louisville, KY	(502)	588-6686 1988-91
Beverly T. Amick Kean College of New Jersey, Union, NJ	(201)	527-2175 1988-91
Judy Bailey University of Delaware, Newark, DE	(302)	451-2027 1990-93
Laura Border University of Colorado, Boulder, CO	(303)	492-4902 1989-92
Suzanne Brown State System of Higher Education, Harrisburg, PA	(717)	783-4604 1990-93
Nancy Chism The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH	(614)	292-3644 1989-92
James Eison University of South Florida	(813)	974-2576 1989-92
Loren Ekroth Lake Oswego, OR	(503)	697-7648 1988-91
Kay Herr Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO	(303)	491-1325 1990-93
Linda Rae Hilsen University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN	(218)	726-7515 1989-92
Sandra Holmes University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI		346-3952 1988-91
Glenn Ross Johnson Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	(409)	845-8392 1988-91
Marilyn Leach University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE	(402)	554-2427 1989-92
Karron Lewis University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX	(512)	471-1488 1990-93
Ed Neal University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC	(919)	966-1289 1988-91
Richard Nichols Kean College of New Jersey, Union, NJ	(201)	527-2366 1990-93
Thomas L. Pasternak Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, VA	(804)	846-7392 1990-93
Larry Quinsland Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY	(716)	475-6237 1990-93
Mary Deane Sorcinelli University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA	(413)	545-2554 1989-92
Sandra Tomlinson Galveston College, Galveston, TX	(409)	763-6551 1988-91

(206) 543-6588

1989-92

Donald Wulff

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

## POD Network Application for Membership\*

	d MAIL with YOUR CHECK or MONEY OF in U.S. currency (payable to POD Networ	
Name		Lincoln, NE 68588
Position /Title		
Institution / Organization		
City	State	Zip
Business Phone ()	Home Phone (	)
Key Word Professional Inter	ests	
\$ (U.S.) Enclos	sed Annual Membership	Fees: Individual Membership \$25 Institutional Membership \$100

(Covers five members)

\* Use this form to join POD or renew your membership