



April 8, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter regarding our experience with Dr. Tom Tobin. We invited him to Trinity to provide professional development for our faculty on best practice for online learning. Several things specifically stand out in a positive way regarding our interactions with Dr. Tobin.

It was simple and painless to arrange the professional development session with Tom. He responded promptly to our communications and provided clear information about what he would be able to do for us and what it would cost. Though we had anticipated that it might be difficult to find a mutually acceptable date, we were pleasantly surprised to easily agree on a date that fit our needs and Tom's schedule.

Tom worked to tailor his presentation to us and our expressed needs. I'm sure he has standard presentations with variations both to work within his expertise as well as for efficiency, but we did not perceive that we were hearing a "canned" presentation. In fact, Tom asked to connect with several of our faculty prior to the session so that he could hear from them about our perceived needs. Those individuals later expressed to me that they noted things were addressed in the presentation that had been part of their pre-conversation with Tom.

On the day of the presentation, Tom arrived early to set up. Because he was ready to go well before the appointed time, he was available to greet and introduce himself to most of the workshop participants as they arrived in the room. This personal welcome helped participants feel valued and at ease.

Tom's presentation was energetic, engaging and content-rich. He used appropriate adult learning techniques, such as inviting us to comment on a scenario based on our prior experiences. The Power Point slides effectively supported the presentation. I recommend you include the book giveaway that Tom includes. Our folks loved the opportunity to win a free book (what academic doesn't like books?) and Tom had designed his form so that he would receive feedback and get their raffle ticket for the book giveaway. Following the presentation, Tom made himself available to continue the conversation with individuals and our online leadership team.

In sum, our experience with Tom was positive before, during and after the presentation. I highly recommend him.

Cordially,

Karen A. Wrobbel, EdD
Associate Dean of the College and Graduate School