

Portland, Me

8.11.2022

To Whom It May Concern: In July '22 the University of Maine system invited Dr. Tom Tobin to give a public keynote address followed by a workshop (both virtual) to kick off the annual Summer Academy for Adult Learning and Teaching or SAALT. Both the keynote and the workshop focused on Universal Design for Learning, particularly as it serves adult learners. 108 participants attended the keynote – the most in the history of this event - while the workshop was exclusive to 24 select participants.

Prior to these events, Dr. Tobin worked with me and a few faculty and staff members across the University of Maine system to create a customized experience for the attendees. I very much appreciated his questions about the specific goals of SAALT and his ideas for making both his sessions as directly relevant to teaching as possible.

Dr. Tobin's presentation style is extremely engaging. Even in an event attended by 100+ individuals, he created opportunities for active learning, 'listening' to the participants and encouraging thoughtful reflection. In the words of one of the participants, "I enjoyed the interactive nature of this keynote—a welcome surprise, when I expected a Zoom webinar talk." He modeled the strategies he discussed, such as the 10+2 method of content presentation and ensuring accessibility for all. Attendee feedback was overwhelmingly positive in terms of finding his material easy to understand as well as to implement, increasing the likelihood that its impact will reach our students.

I highly recommend Dr. Tobin as a speaker for the expertise, care and approachability he demonstrates before, during and after his session.

Sincerely,



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