Hello and welcome to Old Dominion University. I am Andy Casiello, the Associate Vice President for the Office of Distance Learning and I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce you to our organization and to ODUOnline.

Here’s my contact information.

Old Dominion University has been involved in Distance Learning for over 30 years, beginning with the Consortium of Graduate Engineering in the 1980s. Today, the Office of Distance Learning is responsible for supporting both faculty and students engaged in over 80 academic programs available online. We have made it our mission to provide an effective and efficient online educational environment complete with the necessary resources to meet the instructional needs of faculty and the education goals of students.

The Office of Distance Learning couldn’t accomplish these goals without our partners. On-campus, we partner with all of the colleges to engage faculty, develop technology-delivered instruction, and promote online program opportunities. The recent addition of the new College of Continuing Education and Professional Development, led by Dean Jim Shaeffer, provides the Office of Distance Learning a unique opportunity to collaborate in new ways by leveraging both organizations’ strengths and resources.

In the early 1990’s, the Commonwealth of Virginia funded the establishment of a state-wide satellite broadcast network of ODU distance learning locations at each of the Virginia community colleges. This system, referred to as TELETECHNET, marked the beginning of our partnership with the Virginia Community College System. In addition, we have partnered with several state operated higher education centers across Virginia to provide place-bound students access to higher education opportunities in their communities.

Our Office is a proud partner with our military service members, veterans and their families. We have had numerous collaborative programs with the military over the years, and routinely support a number of military installations in Virginia and in Washington state.

Locally, Distance Learning’s technology and engineering teams provide distance learning solutions to the in-region ODU Higher Education Centers located in Virginia Beach, on the Peninsula, and at the Tri-Cities Center.

While we have maintained physical locations in a number of states throughout our 30-year history, today we operate partner locations at community colleges in two states, Arizona and Washington.
Since its inception, Distance Learning at ODU has evolved to include a variety of on-site and online learning options at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In the past five years, there has been significant growth in demand for online offerings. We have realized a 68% increase in registrations from the start of our online expansion initiative in 2010 to 2014 and growth continues.

At Old Dominion University in 2015, we have seen about 40 percent of students taking either a blend of on-campus and online courses or all online courses.

Over the last five years, we have re-engineered our organization to become what is known today as ODUOnline, the leading University provider of online distance learning in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Moving from the satellite broadcast system, delivering face-to-face instruction to receive classrooms at our partner locations, to the online learning environments that we support today, has been a strategic initiative of the University to maintain our role as a leader in distance learning and to meet the growing demand of our students.

Re-engineering an organization that was established to support the TELETECHNET infrastructure has involved nearly every aspect of our operation. With the transition away from the satellite system toward completely online solutions, our partner locations had to evolve into more integrated, efficient operations that allowed us to maintain our presence and to continue to support the needs of the local communities.

On-campus, the Office of Distance Learning has reinvested resources into new areas to support the promotion of online programs and the student support needs of both prospective and current online student populations.

Today, with over 80 programs offered online using various combinations of synchronous and asynchronous delivery technologies, ODUOnline is positioned well, with hundreds of courses available in synchronous and asynchronous online delivery formats.

As a new ODU faculty member, it is important for you to know that the Office of Distance Learning is comprised of four primary areas.

Central operations and planning and development is home to the more strategic and management aspects of the operation. Specifically, online program production planning and management begins here, as does the related compensation models for colleges, departments, and faculty. Planning and Development collaborates with departments to promote online program opportunities. This is done using a combination of grassroots strategies and through the use of a sophisticated marketing engine to promote
programs available online at ODU that relies on the latest online marketing strategies and techniques. The online.odu.edu website serves as the central marketing engine behind the numerous advertising initiatives, and we work hard to maintain an environment that gives prospects the information they need while they are researching program options.

The Center for Learning and Teaching unit is the University’s central location for faculty teaching and instructional support resources. Whether you are interested in training classes or individual consultations, the professional staff at CLT is here to help you accomplish your teaching and learning goals.

CLT is also home to several professional instructional design teams responsible for developing online instruction for the numerous online programs available at the University.

Be sure to explore the calendar of training events and the Summer Institute hosted by the Center for Learning and Teaching.

The Academic Technology Services unit is responsible for implementing and supporting the technology behind our technology-delivered instruction. ATS provides the technical support infrastructure for the University’s web conferencing courses offered using WebEx and manages the associated class archiving system, Kaltura, to provide faculty and students timely archives for each class session.

On the second floor of the Gornto building, ATS manages a number of classrooms from which WebEx courses can be originated, with technical support assigned to each course.

ATS operates a professional broadcast studio and has a team of videographers in place to produce studio-based and field-based video projects. This team of videographers provides video production support to the CLT instructional design teams as they develop online course modules as well.

The Student Support and Operations unit’s primary responsibilities are to manage online student services for the complete online student lifecycle and to provide leadership for Distance Learning’s partner relations. Today, Distance Learning’s student support system has a team-based structure with prospective student and current student teams in place to provide advising and student success coaching. To establish a scalable model of student support services, we manage student communications and tracking using the University’s Hobsons CRM system from prospect to applicant to registered student. Our teams are trained as specialists in specific academic program areas and support students from all over the world.
This is an exciting time for Distance Learning at Old Dominion University, as we mature solutions in pursuit of online scalability, agility and excellence. The University is exploring a number of new and exciting opportunities, including more flexible program offerings and complete undergraduate degree programs online, in addition to our tradition of offering undergraduate degree completion programs.

Working collaboratively with the College of Continuing Education and Professional Development, we will be exploring new partnerships and opportunities to develop customized programming. And, as part of our overall strategic marketing initiative in support of the University’s enrollment management plan, we are exploring new markets nationally and internationally.

We look forward to providing you the highest quality service at some point in the near future and we encourage you to...

Visit the Office of Distance Learning to explore web conferencing, asynchronous online learning, or to take advantage of the numerous faculty development opportunities available.

Learn more about teaching and learning from your peers and the various training events and workshops.

Be part of our instructional technology research initiatives and teach in new and innovative ways

Partner with us to develop knowledge products that enrich your field or course modules that excite and engage your students.

If you are interested in learning more, or if you ever have any questions, please contact us. We’d be happy to speak with you.

In closing, on behalf of ODUOnline, please let me welcome you to Old Dominion University. We’re glad to have you join us!