

# 2014 OCWTP Trainer Conference Wrap-Up

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*Beth Ann Rodriguez, Institute for Human Services*

What a great Trainer Conference this year! The theme was ***The New Reality: Training in the Digital Age*** and it was all about technology and how to make the best use of it to engage learners and keep them engaged. Our Keynote speakers, Debra Jasper and Betsy Hubbard from *Mindset Digital*, were fantastic! They were full of energy and provided great information! The first part of their presentation brought us to a better understanding of the value of integrating communication channels (Twitter, Instagram, etc.) into our learning environments. The second part addressed how to keep participants with short attention spans and high expectations engaged through the use of powerful presentations. It was an exciting and very engaging presentation! Follow this link for a copy of their handout, [Power of the Visual](#).

And we were not done yet! The afternoon sessions were also excellent. We offered three workshops:

- \* *PowerPoint: A New Perspective on a Veteran Tool* - Christina Carter guided participants to an understanding and application of three design principles that enhance the learning process. The OCWTP plans to update the *PowerPoint TOT* to reflect the material from this workshop. Follow this link to get a handout from this workshop, [Strengthening Presentation Design to Increase Learning](#).
- \* *Best Practice Skills for Facilitating Distance Learning* - Sally Fitch, Jodie Hembree, and Brian Wear facilitated an interactive presentation on strategies and tips for successful distance learning facilitation. Follow this link for a resource offered during the workshop, [Decision Matrix for Determining Content Appropriateness for Distance Learning Delivery](#)
- \* *Using Technology to Build Knowledge-Sharing Communities* - Connie Wanstreet and David Stein from The Ohio State University provided participants information about the use of technology tools for pre-training readiness, classroom facilitation, and post-training transfer. Use the following link to view one of the resources they offered: [Top 100 Online Tools](#)

We received great feedback about the conference. We thank you for joining us in stepping outside of our usual “conference box” to a format that was very different. Who knows what adventures we will embark on next year! We have initiated plans for next year’s gathering and look forward to another wonderful experience! We hope to see you there!