

Leah Parsons Simpson, Ed.D.

Skills & Abilities

- Proven leader at the university, college, and system level, leading transformational change in learning systems and academic processes, collegial collaboration, assessment, and reporting.
- Excels at data-analysis, data-driven decision making, and leading assessment efforts.
- Established faculty developer with a strong emphasis on academic and teaching quality, and educational access.
- Demonstrable skill in developing collegial relationships and partnerships.

Current Position

Executive Director of Online Learning, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)

2018 – Present

KCTCS is a system of 16 independently accredited community colleges. System Office employees help coordinate and lead initiatives and activities which affect all 16 colleges. These activities are often also led locally by a college employee, which requires partnerships between the System employee and the colleges.

- Played a lead role in the development of a clear strategy to reorganize online courses and develop System-wide approaches to the assessment of courses.
- Guided faculty professional development at the system level, with a focus on course quality and high-impact practices.
- Facilitated the development of distance education policies, procedures, academic resources, student and faculty services, and technical infrastructure.
- Oversaw competency-based education (CBE) efforts at KCTCS.
- Led a System-wide switch from Blackboard Learn Original to Blackboard Learn Ultra courses.
- Worked directly with Blackboard representatives to advocate for improvements to the Blackboard Ultra interface.
- Oversaw a \$1.5m budget and managed a team of nine staff.
- Developed meaningful partnerships with college staff and faculty to increase the success of KCTCS Online initiatives.
- Served as the Primary Investigator for two national grants.
- Oversaw the RFP process for multiple System-wide education technology solutions.

Previous Positions

Director of curriculum and assessment, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy

2014 – 2018

Reported to the Associate Dean of Education. Provided leadership for the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of all Pharm.D. courses. Planned and monitored progress toward college and program goals and strategic objectives. Created and delivered high-quality, data-driven reports to various audiences. Designed and implemented faculty development in research-based models of instruction, student success, and curriculum development. Partnered with faculty and staff to develop and implement targeted interventions for student learning, success, and satisfaction. Helped to implement, coordinate, and oversee all college accreditation processes and activities. Led the College in developing and implementing a two-step assessment process (milemarker exams) for student matriculation from the didactic classroom to their practicums.

Assessment Specialist, University of Kentucky

2009 – 2014

Reported to the Director of Assessment. Developed and led faculty training workshops. Led assessment management technology initiatives on campus. Maintained all assessment e-learning technologies on campus. Designed instructional content. Consulted with faculty and program leaders on assessment processes, tools, and use in classroom and program assessment.

Associate Dean, ITT Technical Institute

2008 – 2009

Reported to the Dean of Academics. Developed and led faculty training programs and professional development for all full and part-time faculty and academic staff. Supervised library and general education faculty and staff as well as student workers. Developed data-driven reports for administrators.

Other Relevant Experience

Online Instructor

- Morehead State University
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Education

Ed.D., Education Technology and Leadership

Morehead State University, 2016

M.P.A., Public Administration

University of Kentucky Martin School, 2004

B.S. English

Eastern Kentucky University, 1998

Workgroups & Committees

- Online Learning Peer Team, Kentucky Community and Technical College, 2018-Present
- Accessibility Planning Workgroup, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, 2021 – 2022.
- Reimagining KCTCS Online Workgroup, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, 2020 – 2021
- Digital Credentialing Workgroup Member, IMS Global, 2020 – 2021
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Steering Committee Chair, Kentucky Community and Technical College, 2018 – 2020
- Blackboard Ultra Pilot Steering Committee Chair, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, 2019
- Online Course Quality Workgroup, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, 2019
- Online Orientation Workgroup Chair, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, 2019
- Course Sharing Workgroup co-Lead, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, 2019
- Assessment Committee Chair, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, 2015 – 2018
- Milemarker Committee Chair, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, 2016 – 2018
- Curriculum Committee Ex Officio Member, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, 2014 – 2018
- Student Success Committee, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, 2015 – 2018
- Academic Coordination Council, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, 2016 – 2018
- University Assessment Council (UAC) member, University of Kentucky, 2015 – 2018
- Rubric Review Work Group, University of Kentucky, 2016
- University of Kentucky Rubric Review Work Group, 2016
- University Assessment Council (UAC) Co-chair, University of Kentucky, 2010 – 2014
- University of Kentucky Core Educational Committee (UKCEC) Ex Officio Member, University of Kentucky, 2009 – 2014