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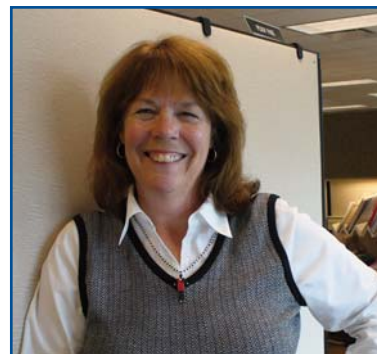
## Adult Education Program Alumni Career Stories

### Peggy Page

When Peggy graduated from the adult education program in 2006, all of the training she managed for TDBank was delivered on site. Less than 3 years later, 60% of the training projects she coordinates utilize technology to enhance learning. As Manager of the Design Team, Peggy works with five designers and four developers who create all classroom training and elearning programs for the 18,000 TDBank employees, who work in locations from Maine to Florida.

Peggy couldn't have imagined that her work would shift so fast toward elearning. Two key concepts Peggy learned through the adult education program - lifelong learning and being a self-directed learner- have served her well during the shift toward elearning. Peggy said, "When I started the adult education program, I thought meaning could only be made in the classroom with others face-to-face through discussion. Now I am a believer that it can also take place online!"

Peggy experienced a paradigm shift during the adult education program. She began the program believing that there were answers, exact answers. Peggy put it this way, "Initially, I connected learning to facts and ideas that were fixed. The program totally changed the way I think about knowledge, learning and about my learning. I came to understand myself as a social constructivist." The learning autobiography she wrote in HRD 635-The Adult Learner course was



important for her. Peggy took HRD 632-Program Development with Will Callender and said, "I will always remember one of his sayings: 'Listen to yourself think'." During the program the line between teaching and learning ceased to exist. Peggy offered, "I was learning and I was teaching others; the faculty was teaching and learning from us. I completed the program believing that it is fruitless to search for certainty; you won't find it!" Now, she embraces the value of questions in the spirit of Rilke who said "live the questions."

Her new philosophy was evident in a recent program Peggy delivered in Las Vegas at the American Society of Training and Development (ASTD) Technology conference entitled: "Zero to Sixty: Launching eLearning at TD Bank". She started her session by saying: "If you came looking for answers about exactly what you should do to develop an elearning program for your organization, you might want to leave now. If you came looking for the questions that we asked to help us launch our program successfully, stay. While the answers to the same questions will be different in different contexts, the questions that are impor-

tant to ask will be similar. That's what I can share with you today!" No one left.

The passion and energy Peggy has for her work is easily demonstrated by her willingness to say yes!

At the recent ASTD conference, Peggy presented her session face-to-face to a group of over 100 people, offered her session in a virtual format, set up "office hours" in 15 minute intervals so people could meet with her in person and agreed to meet at 7 am to host a learning lab. In keeping with Peggy's belief that questions provoke learning, she kicked off this session with one question: "What is the scariest thing you are facing in elearning?"

One of the biggest challenges Peggy faces in her work is professional development opportunities for her staff. To help address that need, Peggy started the "ELEARNING PLAY GROUP", an interest group affiliated with Maine ASTD that meets monthly at different locations in the greater Portland area to discuss topics of mutual interest and promote learning about using new technologies in learning. Attending these meetings is part of her professional development as well. Now a committed lifelong learner, Peggy shared one of her recent New Year's resolutions, "I am going to post to two separate blogs each week!"

*For more information about the USM Adult Education program please contact Graduate Admission at (207) 780-4386 or visit [www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/adult-education/](http://www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/adult-education/)*