

Dr. Karen Rhoda is dean of the Walsh College Division of Online Learning, a dynamic, recognized, and respected system of e-learning. She provides overall direction and growth initiatives for the College's online degree and certificate programs. Dr. Rhoda joined the College after 19 years with The University of Toledo, where she was most recently associate dean for the Division of Distance Learning. While there, Dr. Rhoda secured more than \$3.2 million in grants and gifts, much of which launched the University's online degree programs. She designed and taught an online graduate course, the Administration of Distance Learning in Higher Education and taught sociology and adult liberal studies courses for several years. In 2000 she was named Outstanding University of Toledo Woman. She has served on numerous University committees and continues to do so for Walsh College.

Dr. Rhoda leads Walsh's online learning programs as a centralized operation of sixteen staff members that coordinates and facilitates the College's online learning, blended and web assisted courses. Walsh College offers nine degree and seven certificate online programs. For academic year 2009-2010, the Division of Online Learning supported over 40 percent of the Walsh College credit hours in online courses. The result is a dynamic and accessible educational environment for today's learners wherever they may be--in businesses, industries, government, organizations, and educational institutions.

Currently, she serves on the board of directors for the Alliance for Excellence in Online Education. She has served on Ohio Learning Network's Academic Outreach and Futures Task Force Committees and acted as a moderator for the serve of Ohio's distance learning administrators. She was nominated to the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) in 2003 for the award in outstanding achievement by an individual in distance learning, and served on that organization's Advisory Board. Her book chapter, *The Role of Distance Education in Enhancing Accessibility for Adult Learners* was published in Best Practices for Adult Learning in 2005. She is a frequent presenter at state, regional, national and international conferences. These presentations include such topics as *Services: Access and Learning Enhancement for Online Students* at the Annual Sloan-C International Conference on Asynchronous Learning Networks (ALN), Orlando, FL; *Breaking Down Barriers: The Role of Technology in Enhancing Accessibility for Adult Learners* at the Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning, Madison, WI; and *Administrative Strategies for the Online Classroom: Support Services for Faculty and Students That Produce Success*, a paper presented at the 2003 AHEA Adult Higher Education Alliance Conference, Asheville, NC.

She was a preconference workshop leader with Tom Erney, Dean of Instructional Services of Columbus State Community College in March 2005 for the Ohio Commons for Digital Education. The workshop was titled *The Changing Role of Leadership in Distance Learning Programs*. She was invited to the Arkansas Distance Learning Conference, Fayetteville, AR with colleagues to speak about *Strategies for the Online Classroom: Successful Retention of Faculty and Students*. She was an invited speaker at the EnterpriseOhio Network Convention in October 2005. Her topic was *Distance Learning: Its Past, Present and Future in Ohio and Beyond*. In 2009 she was a keynote presenter for the Echo 360 Community Conference: *Lecture Capture Technology: Its Link to Building Successful Distance Learning Programs*.

Dr. Rhoda was interviewed for the following publications: Distance Education Report, (2002, Sept. 15). *U Toledo Distance Program Bucks Profitability Trend: Director Tells How*, Volume 6, Number 18; Distance Education Report, (2002, April 15). *Before They Drift Away: Two Experts Pool Retention Insights*, Volume 6, Number 8; and WebCT Campus Success Stories, (2001, February 7) and Women in Higher Education, (2006) *Walking the Tightrope of Life*. She was featured on the Newsweek online showcase about distance learning in the fall of 2003.

Dr. Rhoda's bachelor's degree is from Indiana University, and she also attended Earlham College as sociology major. Her Master of Arts in sociology and Ph.D. in sociological foundations of education with a minor in sociology were earned from The University of Toledo.

She and her husband, Don, are the parents of five sons, Mark, Todd, Pat, Doug and Brian and are advocates for dog and cat organizations. Together they enthusiastically spend time with their Cocker Spaniel, Rhoda's Little Sandman, and also enjoy reading and antiques. Both are members of the Troy Kiwanis Club.