Lynn Huffman Receives Friend Award for Leadership in Online Ed Alliance
2018 Friend of the Great Plains IDEA Award

Lynn Huffman, Ph.D., Executive Associate Dean for Academics, Research and Faculty Development in the College of Human Sciences at Texas Tech University, was honored with a 2018 Friend of the Great Plains IDEA Award. She was celebrated for committed leadership in the academic alliance. The honor came at the annual meeting of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (IDEA) April 10, 2018, in Kansas City, Missouri. Mitzi Ziegner, Associate Chair of Human Development and Family Studies and Director of the Great Plains IDEA Early Childhood online program at Texas Tech, nominated Huffman.

Ziegner praised Huffman’s pivotal role supporting faculty from seven universities as they created the first bachelor’s degree for the online consortium, which previously only offered graduate degrees. Students enrolled in Early Care and Education for a Mobile Society classes fall 2014 after early childhood faculty met for three years to form the program.

“Being charged with developing the first undergraduate degree program in the GP IDEA was a rather daunting task, and Lynn has been there as a resource and support every step of the way right up to the successful launch,” said Ziegner. “Words cannot convey the complexity of this process, the many meetings and conference calls involved and the complicated issues along the way that had to be resolved. Lynn’s broad knowledge base and experience were important to the approval process.”

In addition to her many roles at Texas Tech, Huffman serves as chair of the Great Plains IDEA Human Sciences Board. Earlier in her Great Plains IDEA participation, she represented human sciences programs three years on the Great Plains IDEA cabinet.

Great Plains IDEA brings together faculty from accredited universities to offer high-quality online academic programs cost-effectively. Texas Tech participates in four human sciences programs and two agriculture programs through the consortium. Seventeen accredited member institutions and two accredited affiliate institutions share responsibilities to offer 11 online degrees and 14 online certificates. To take part in the inter-institutional programs, a student chooses one partner as a home institution for enrollment, transcript and graduation.

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