

Good Afternoon Everyone and Welcome to our Symposium.

I am Dr. Linda Sun, Managing Editor of the International Forum of Teaching and Studies (IFOTS) journal. This Symposium is hosted and supported by the IFOTS journal, which is one of the journals published by American Scholars Press. American Scholars Press is proudly celebrating its 16th year in operation. For 14 years, the IFOTS journal has provided an exchange forum for scholars, educators, and professionals to disseminate research on theory building and practice-based information on education. This peer-reviewed journal publishes biannually and is particularly dedicated to the development and improvement of teaching within international contexts.

We are very pleased to welcome you to today's event: Our first IFOTS Symposium, "Online Teaching and Learning: Challenges and Solutions." We selected this theme for our inaugural symposium given the current contexts of the global pandemic that has affected the traditional education settings dramatically. It has caught students, administrators, and teachers off-guard.

Today's event is bringing together educators and students from around the globe to address the effects of the pandemic and its consequences for educators and students. American Scholars Press is pleased to host it for you. We will hear about high-quality research, pedagogical innovations, international perspectives on educational structures, and practices for moving instruction online. I am certain that today will be filled with learning for everyone. I encourage us to discuss the challenges and ideas, and to exchange experiences about this new world of E- teaching and -learning.

Let me express my sincere appreciation to all of you who so generously volunteered your time to make this event come together. Thank you goes to the symposium committee headed by Dr. Gabriele Strohschen, and to planning committee members Dr. Vincent Wiggins, Dr. Cliff Butler, Deborah McPhee, and Dr. Khan, who have so diligently worked to put this symposium together.

My deep appreciation goes to the presenters, Dr. Karanam Pushpanadham, Morris Langdon, Dr. Elaine Gregory, and Dr. Cliff Butler, Dr. Michael Williams, and Dr. Tami Moser, Dr. Ronny Richardson and Dr. Ahmed Khan, who will engage us by sharing their extensive and impressive experiences, and to our moderators Dr. Gabriele Strohschen, Deborah McPhee, Dr. Ahmed Khan, Dr. Vincent Wiggins, Dr. Max North and Dr. Cliff Butler, who will facilitate lively discussions.

You may agree that COVID-19 the pandemic has changed our way of life. It behooves us seek our new way of teaching and learning and seeking out new opportunities. Therefore, we feel good that our first symposium: Online Teaching and Learning: Challenges and Solutions has attempted to contribute to the success of online education. To keep our discourse going, we invite you to submit your article to IFOTS for free peer review and publications. Submit your article to [lsunlinda@gmail.com](mailto:lsunlinda@gmail.com)

Thank you very much!