

ICDE GLOBAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

OPEN, FLEXIBLE & DISTANCE LEARNING

WHAT ARE WE ADVOCATING FOR?

The global ICDE Community are in consensus on the following advocacy messages to be shared by proponents of the ICDE Global Advocacy Campaign for Open, Flexible and Distance Learning (OFDL).

The following advocacy messages are to be shared globally through top down, bottom up and lateral communications. An advocacy toolkit with recommendations and guidelines for pushing through on the advocacy campaign will be made available at www.icde.org.

Globally applicable messages for OFDL adoption and implementation

- Access to education for all means access for **ALL**
- Open and distance education is one strategy that enables economic, social, political, and digital justice.
- Real change requires a real investment: connectivity and bandwidth are keys to equitable access

Messages on the importance of Collaboration

- We are all in this together
- Universal access to education calls for collaboration and openness among all those involved
- There is an international community of successful practitioners and proven applications and systems
- Involve everyone, especially the end-user / learner

Messages for Policy Makers and HEI Leaders

- Quality OFDL is as good as traditional education - and is more accessible and scalable
- Emergency Remote Teaching is not Open, Flexible and Distance Learning!
- Rethink learning and teaching
- Collaboration between different institutions reduces financial costs and increases quality
- Inter-regional collaboration will benefit all institutions providing quality open, flexible and distance learning
- Faculty training is key to transformational digital learning and student success in this new environment
- Clear attribution policies for academic materials produced by academic staff is needed
- Creative blended-learning solutions are crucial in view of targeted, capacity skills-oriented education for all
- A common framework for Micro credentialing creates livelihood

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Messages for Faculty:

- As learner expectations continue to adapt and progress, we need to not only keep up, but stay one step ahead of learner expectations
- OFDL can be a catalyst for improving Teaching and Learning in all modes.
- Lifelong learning is needed to improve knowledge and competencies among teachers
- Creative pedagogies can be applied to OFDL - it's not all passive learning through readings and videos
- Recalibration of the learning and teaching transactions

Messages on Student inclusion and voices

- OFDL techniques can enable students to meet graduate profiles
- A substantial number of potential learners are not served well outside of OFDL
- Technology for personalized learning exists
- Universal design Learning is simply good practice for all

Messages on Technology and OFDL

- Pedagogy over Technology
- Technology is just a tool for effective teaching and technology is not just internet
- The use of modern technology does not make one a good teacher, but digital skills are key to improve online Teaching and Learning

Messages on Quality in OFDL

- Quality in OFDL is its own thing and requires investment in change.
- The true purpose of quality assurance is learning and student success.
- Quality isn't apodictic. It is multi-dimensional, and it is a continuous process.
- There are quality frameworks for OFDL to ensure quality education for all
- Hybrid or blended learning is the core tool of education in several professional disciplines to ensure the quality and the achievement of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and competencies
- Standards of quality of online education should cover a detailed delivery and assessment procedure
- The examinations as being the main tool of assessment in almost all undergraduate programs need to be adjusted via online tools
- Investigate innovative online assessments protocols for authentic and quality learning

Messages on Open Education and OFDL

- Open Education and OER is key to inclusive, scalable and innovative learning for all
- Open licenses do not deny academics their right to be identified as authors
- Teachers can still claim ownership to their works and openly share them (relevant CC license)