FACULTY PROFILE

Department
CSU College: Safety and Emergency Services
CSU Discipline: Occupational Safety and Health

Basic Info
Name: Rebecca Kelley
Title: Part-Time Faculty
Email: rebecca.kelley@columbiasouthern.edu
Personal Preferred Availability: Evenings

Education
Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences
University of Cincinnati
Master of Science in Biology
University of Cincinnati
Bachelor of Science in Biology
University of Cincinnati

Biography
Background
In my career, I have conducted research on land use impact on water quality and served as the director of an Environmental Science program. Additionally, I've developed curricula and courses, advised students, provided career counseling, and taught many classes. The longer I taught and learned about environmental problems, the more I realized that solving them required preventing them, and the best prevention is through education. My interest turned to education strategies and better environmental management program development. I started looking at what I was doing in the classroom, why it was important, and how it could be applied. I published two papers titled "Worms in The College Classroom: More Than Just a Composting Demonstration" and "An Innovative and Practical Course for Environmental Educators" based on my classroom work.

These papers represent what I believe is my most important work because they take practice from the classroom setting and apply it to real world situations. In 2011, I left academia for a job in a healthcare organization, where I am responsible for developing and implementing the Environmental Management Program. I have completed training in the international standard for environmental program development (ISO 14001) and earned Certified Hazardous Materials Management (CHMM) credentials. I still get to teach and educate employees about environmental laws and proper handling of chemicals and waste.

Hobbies/Interests
Crochet and camping

Additional Information
Teaching Philosophy
Perhaps my greatest skill in teaching is to make it applicable. Science can be, and often is, taught as just a bunch of facts to memorize, regurgitate, and list. However, it is important for students to understand how the scientific facts apply to the real world. I prefer to teach environmental issues, science, and management with applied examples. What makes sense is also much easier to learn and remember. Moreover, they are much more likely to apply it to their daily lives when making choices about purchasing food produced by different types of farming practices. As technology has evolved so has the teaching environment and student expectations.

Advice for Current Students
Be self-disciplined. The key to success in taking online courses is self discipline. In traditional In traditional classroom you see and feel the pressure of your peers and instructor to keep up. This pressure and constant reminder is subtle in the online environment. Manage your time wisely; balance your work, family commitments and course enrollment. I know you want to work hard and graduate as fast as you can. However, you would be better off taking a lesser course load if it means successful completion of your courses the first time around.

The second piece of advice I have is to read the assignments and make sure you do what the assignment says.