From the ICELW 2009 Conference Chair

It has again been my pleasure to chair the International Conference on E-Learning in the Workplace (ICELW) in 2009. ICELW 2009 was our second annual conference, and I was pleased to find that we had an even stronger set of sessions, and greater attendance, than we had in 2008. We also had a dramatic increase in the number of sessions that included demonstrations of e-learning work, and also an increased focus on performance support in addition to, and in lieu of, training.

E-learning in the corporate world is still, in many ways, finding its way. Over the course of the past twenty years or so, I have seen the use of technology for learning and performance improvement go through a number of stages: the niche-market years before the explosion of corporate intranets (when "e-learning" was CD-ROM-based and generally only for early adopters—but the work was often innovative and interesting); the Learning Management System (LMS)-focused days in which companies focused much more on tracking whether their learners took the training than whether the training helped them improve performance; a slight LMS backlash followed by a renewed interest in some advanced techniques such as simulation; and an interest in mobile learning and "Web 2.0" methods. Overall, however, there is still far too much page-turning e-learning in the corporate world today, and too much emphasis on upfront training rather than just-in-time performance support, and a true performance focus.

I'd like to continue to view ICELW and iJAC as ways in which we can advance the field in terms of both research and practice—providing academic researchers with real-world problems which can benefit from their research, and providing those in the world of corporate training with access to relevant research, both in the form of studies and by demonstrating new techniques in online learning and performance. E-learning in the corporate world does continue to be in a state of unrealized potential, but the field continues to improve, and both ICELW and iJAC have the opportunity to effect change.

I would like to thank all of our presenters and participants, as well as our Executive Committee, International Program Committee, keynote speakers, and our wonderful staff, for a great ICELW 2009, as we already look toward ICELW 2010, to be held in June 2010, again in New York. As always, I look forward to seeing continued work from iJAC and ICELW play a major role in influencing and improving the field of e-learning in the workplace.

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