



*"It's an exciting time to be in higher education, and UPCEA allows me to be proactive, instead of reactive."*



*"UPCEA is the one place where I know I have a network of colleagues who are struggling with the same challenges and are willing to share their expertise and experience."*

## **Why did you choose to become an UPCEA Member?**

I have been an UPCEA Institutional Member for a lot of years with different institutions. When I came to Drake University, it was an easy decision to continue to be a member. I have come to rely on their research and resources throughout my career in online and continuing education.

## **How has the recent pandemic and the need for remote/online education increased the importance of your UPCEA Institutional Membership?**

UPCEA opened up the conversations about the impact the pandemic had for online and continuing education. The Snap Polls gave just in time information for a myriad of important topics, including subjects that ranged from what support was important for pivoting to remote work, what impact telecommuting has, how to best manage a remote staff, and how students were faring in this new world. Being able to benchmark our work against those of our peers helped to identify opportunities for improvement and how best to leverage resources to meet the challenge.



Christina Trombley, Ph.D.  
Executive Director of Drake Online  
and Continuing Education  
Drake University

Christina has worked in continuing and online education for over 25 years. She earned her Ph.D. in Urban Education with an emphasis in Adult, Continuing, and Higher Education Leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

## **How has your UPCEA Institutional Membership contributed to the success of your college or university?**

UPCEA provides insight into the changing dynamics of higher education. It's an exciting time to be in higher education, and UPCEA allows me to be proactive, instead of reactive. Being an active member of UPCEA provides the support I need to do my job well and keep our institution at the forefront of innovative new programs.

## **Which membership benefits do you use the most?**

I make the most of my UPCEA membership by participating fully. I have attended conferences, volunteered, asked questions in our CORe, and participate in polls.

## **What specific things have been most impactful?**

Networking at the conferences has always been one of the best parts of my membership. I learn so much from my peers and have built relationships that have lasted over decades. It's inspiring to see what others are doing.

## **What volunteer leadership roles have you served at UPCEA and how has that been of benefit to you?**

I have served on numerous planning committees, been a mentor, and am now currently serving as the Chair for the Central Region. The benefits for this have been to be seen as a leader and also to keep me involved in important areas of online and continuing education beyond my institutional view.

## **Would you recommend an UPCEA Institutional Membership?**

I would recommend UPCEA to anyone working in higher education, especially if they are involved in online and continuing education. I think it is especially important for those who are just starting in their fields. They will get so much knowledge about their field, but also find a supportive network to help them move forward in their careers.



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