



Joining UPCEA came at exactly the right time for Valparaiso University. As we continue to grow our graduate portfolio — particularly professional master’s programs and online offerings — we were looking for a community that could help us build institutional capacity and deepen our understanding of online, professional, and workforce-focused education.

At Valpo, online education is an evolving area of focus, and we’re actively shaping how it supports and extends our educational mission. Alongside launching new graduate programs, we’re developing a digital badging and microcredential ecosystem and exploring new ways to connect learners with flexible, career-relevant education opportunities.

UPCEA stood out because it brings together institutions and leaders navigating these same opportunities and challenges. The organization offers invaluable access to expertise, innovation, and a professional network that extends beyond the traditional undergraduate residential model.

What excites me most is that this relationship feels mutually beneficial. Valpo is a comprehensive university with nationally recognized programs in engineering, nursing and health professions, and business, all grounded in a strong liberal arts tradition. We’re eager not only to learn from the UPCEA community, but also to contribute to it through collaboration, conference participation, and volunteer engagement.

“For institutions looking to strengthen graduate enrollment, expand online education, or explore alternative credentials and workforce development, UPCEA provides an incredibly valuable community of practice and leadership.”



Stefanie Heinrich, Ph.D.
Assistant Provost, Graduate and Online Education
Valparaiso University