STUDENT PROFILE

ABOUT YOU ...

¤ Name: (Ms.) Billie McNamara

¤ Address: P O Box 6764
          City: Knoxville   Zip: 37914-0764

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¤ EMail Address: bmcnamara@ncbt.edu

¤ Are you working and going to school?   Yes: ☒   No: ❏
    If yes, where do you work? National College - Knoxville
    How many hours a week will you work? Currently 25-30
    What is your job title? (Academic) Computer Department Chair
    What are your primary responsibilities? Teaching students, mentoring adjunct faculty, monitoring curriculum and instructional delivery methods

¤ Do you have children?   Yes: ☒   No: ❏
   How many children do you have? 2 Stepkids and 3 Furkids   What are their ages? adults

¤ What are your personal interests or hobbies outside of home, work and school?
Historical and genealogical research, lecturing, publishing
Non-profit Web development, especially history and genealogy
Actively involved in museum and historical site preservation and development

¤ Where did you attend undergraduate school? Carson-Newman and UT-K
    What was your major area of study? Elementary Education
    What was your minor area of study? Humanities

¤ What are your career goals?
Haven't grown up enough yet to figure them out…and, they change about every six months.☺

¤ Have you taken any other courses in Human Performance, Adult Education and/or Instructional Technology?
    Please describe. Include when you took the course and the title. If you don't remember, provide a general description of the topics covered in the course.

All the courses we've done here so far; several required core courses in my undergraduate degree; Lord only knows how many continuing education courses in education, instructional

technology, instructional design, and tests/measurement over the past 30 years. I've also been a study partner for several people getting their Master's or Ed. Spec. degrees. Also, helped my mom write materials when she was on the original TN Career Ladder committee back in the '80's. And, I helped her write/edit stuff when she served on the Governor's Vocational/Technical Education Advisory Council in the 1970's. But, one can never know everything (especially about the latest technologies) …and one does get rusty.

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ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT …

⌗ Have you in the past or are you currently responsible for training in your organization?
    ☒ Yes ❏ No
    Please describe:
    * Current job – that's my primary duty.
    * As an employee and as a training contractor for the past 25 years, I've always done it.
    * Continuing Ed adjunct at several regional colleges and universities.

⌗ What instructional methods have you used in the past? To what extent were they successful?

In my career, I've probably used everything that has been popular since 1974 – from printed volumes for programmed learning (an abomination) to interactive, virtual simulations. Canned stuff usually sucks. Materials developed by a professional "curriculum specialist" who either never talked to an SME or only talked to one always suck. Since my instructional design and delivery experience has been primarily technology-oriented, I've found that small groups where you can match skill and knowledge levels – or else pair people up with a mentor – and provide customized (often JITT) instruction works best.

⌗ Do you currently incorporate the use of the computer in your instructional strategy?
    ☒ Yes ❏ No
    Please describe:

It's the primary tool in my present job and in all the training I've delivered since 1984.

⌗ Have you incorporate the Internet as an instructional strategy?
    Yes: ☒   No: ❏
    Please describe:

    It is a primary source or a point of reference for skill reinforcement in all my classes, whether in my present job or in contract instructional jobs I undertake. Most course texts now have Web-based value-added exercises built in to the curriculum. And, I teach a 5-hour segment of one class that deals strictly with using the Internet effectively as a general-interest resource and for academic research.

ABOUT YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS COURSE …

¤ What aspects of selecting and developing instructional materials are you most interested in learning about?

I honestly haven't given it much thought. I'm just interested in keeping current, I guess.

If I could develop a virtual delivery system that enabled the instructor to do a Vulcan mind-meld with students so the instructor could identify exactly what the student lacked and then tailor the instruction to meet those deficits (specific to that student), then deliver the instruction through a second mind-meld, I'd feel as though I had achieved Educational Nirvana. I'm not advocating Borg learning methods, but I really did think the way the kids learned in *Village of the Damned* was cool.

¤ What is your preferred learning method?

Holistic orientation, Socratic method. Don't learn very well from lectures…detest reading manuals. Show me; then let me do it. Or, give me a problem; leave me alone; and, let me figure it out. Just tell me which buttons will blow something up, and tell me how to get to the Help system (electronic, printed, or real-life guru)!

Is there anything you would like me to know about you or your expectations for the course?

Thanks for asking. Can't think of anything, but I'll let you know if I do come up with anything.