The Peer-Learning Network (PLN) promotes professional development for OHIO University staff and faculty by creating an informal university-wide learning community that benefits from workshops, 1:1 assistance, and resource documents to build skills in a targeted area. This is done by identifying employees who are knowledgeable on a specific topic (Content Leaders), provide opportunities for them to collaborate with other content leaders to create tools and learning opportunities, and then connect them with other employees who are seeking development in that area (“Content Seekers”).

PLN provides opportunities and benefits for Content Leaders, Content Seekers and Ohio University:

- **Content Leaders** are trained on adult learning and facilitation skills which can help them become better communicators within their professional and personal lives. They also benefit from increased visibility and recognition as “go-to” experts in the skills they represent. This helps with career development. Participation also earns them badging credit in the PDP Program.

- **Content Seekers** benefit by getting “just in time” learning experiences from peers who are likely to understand how the learning will be used. This allows the learning to be tailored to actual “on-the-job” needs. As skills improve, Content Seekers can also become Content Leaders. This helps to sustain the network and provides additional professional development opportunities.

- **Ohio University** benefits through the establishment of a tightly knit learning community of staff and faculty who support each other’s training and skills development. This leads to improved communication, collaboration, and resource-sharing, which ultimately improves the quality of support we provide to our students.

Important information for Content Leaders:

- Participating as a "Content Leader" in the Peer Learning Network is voluntary. Planning Units can encourage employees to become Content Leaders, but should not require participation.

- Content Leaders lead occasional large workshops and provide 1:1 skill assistance. A directory of PLN Content Leaders will be maintained and available for employee use on the PDP website.

- Since participation takes place during normal work hours, Supervisors of Content Leaders need to sign-off on their participation.

- The Content Leader’s primary job should not be negatively impacted as a result of participation and should not exceed 2 hours/week.

- Content Leaders must have at least Intermediate-level skills.

- Content Leaders are required to participate in Facilitator training. This training will be used for future PDP Certificate badging credit.

- The group of Content Leaders meets periodically to discuss interactions with staff and faculty, identify workshop topics, and recommend/design tools and tip sheets if applicable.

- The PDP Program supports Content Leaders by organizing meetings, coordinating campus communications, and guiding the growth and effectiveness of the Peer-Learning Network.

For more information, please contact Michael Greene at mgreene@ohio.edu or 3-4472.