



St. Joseph College receives prize for online biology master's program

Saint Joseph College will be awarded a Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA) Innovation Prize for its Online Biology Masters Degree program.

The award will be presented on Oct. 17 at CQIA Partnership's 15th Annual Conference on Quality and Innovation at the Southbury Hilton Hotel.

The not-for-profit CQIA Partnership is a group of business people, educators, health care executives and government officials who recognize Connecticut organizations that contribute to the economic vitality of the state.

Saint Joseph College is one of only a handful of colleges in the world that offer the online biology master's degree program.

It was created in 2001 to give working professionals an alternative route to take in order to advance their careers and remain competitive in their current positions.

"Saint Joseph College broke new ground with this biology program," said Charles Morgan, Ph.D., associate professor of biology at the college. "We are a small college thinking globally, while catering to the needs of local professionals who cannot afford the time to commute for their education."

Students arrange courses around their work and home schedules and receive a great deal of individual attention through e-mail and online discussion groups.

The instantaneous nature of the online courses is all encompassing and requires a high level of discipline from students in order to keep pace with the assigned material.

At Saint Joseph College, a master's degree program in biology can be completed within two years.

Key features of the online courses include threaded discussions and frequent assessment of the material.

The threaded discussion enables students to answer questions posed by the instructor and then build upon those answers.

This creates not only a dialogue between the instructor and student, but also a bond among students.