Hello!

As Faculty Director and Professional Development Coordinator for MCU, it has been my job to identify resources to meet our school's need for **plagiarism training**. Plagiarism is, sadly, indigenous to any institution of learning—and yet there are relatively few studies offering statistics on plagiarism rates. Self-reporting surveys suggest that 36% of students paraphrase without citation, 14% falsify a bibliography, and 7% direct copy/paste without proper citation (plagiarism.org, 2017).

A deeper examination of plagiarism reveals a spectrum extending from bold copying to an unsophisticated understanding of paraphrasing. To avoid both temptation and inadvertent mistakes, students *and* instructors must appreciate how to write and present original work in a source-rich internet environment, and—of course—how to present subject matter as a combined concept of the original author's views with new author's perspective.

Plagiarism reflects on our academic integrity as a whole—it is important that every MEAC school have an awareness of this constant challenge. Plagiarism is akin to cheating, and therefore needs to be properly identified and addressed with the same level of attentive respect that we give to cheating. Because education is charged with preparing its participants for personal and professional success, academic institutions must provide clear guidelines for citing expectations and consequences of plagiarism.

MEAC's *Standards for Programmatic Accreditation*, Benchmark B-Orientation and Professional Development, states: "Faculty receive training and materials related to copyright law, the doctrine of fair use, plagiarism, and other relevant legal and ethical concepts."   Those efforts, of course, must be documented and produced upon MEAC review.

We have a three-fold mandate: train faculty and administration; create policy and procedure to manage instances of plagiarism, and to teach students how to be present original work both in the classroom and in their own private practices.

MCU's 90-minute plagiarism training achieves these objectives:

- Identify best practices for plagiarism identification and instruction.
- Understand institutional responsibilities regarding training in academic writing, such as proper citation in writing and research for instructors and students.
- Understand the definition of "common knowledge."
- Develop rubrics for proper citation evaluation.
- Identify proper consequences within a Student Code of Conduct and/or Statements of Academic Integrity.

The module will also provide your school with helpful handouts such as *Plagiarism Resources*, *Rubric References,* a *MEAC School Implementation List* and directions to resources specific to international students.

I feel quite confident that the work we've put into creating this Plagiarism module will meet your school's needs—it's easy to understand and is scaled to meet the needs of our smaller schools. The live course also offers the opportunity for your employees to ask questions and seek clarifications.

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