

# TJ Bliss, Ph.D.

Passionate, trustworthy, and effective student-focused professional with a proven record of intuitive and insightful higher education, public, and non-profit leadership. Fosters collaboration, fiscal responsibility, and inclusive problem solving. Builder of deep relationships of trust with internal and external stakeholders to achieve outcomes, create positive culture, and lead people toward collective vision.

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Educational Inquiry, Measurement, and Evaluation (2013)  
*David O. McKay School of Education, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT*
- M.Sc.** Biological Sciences (2010)  
*School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE*
- B.Sc.** Microbiology and Molecular Biology (2006)  
*College of Life Sciences, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024 – Current      **Clinical Assistant Professor** – *University of Idaho, Moscow, ID*
- Support and mentor graduate student research in the Adult, Organizational Learning and Leadership Program
  - Teach Policy Development and Implementation course
- 2020 - Current      **Chief Academic Officer** – *Idaho State Board of Education, Boise, ID*
- Serve as trusted liaison between Board of Regents and institution leaders
  - Ensure regents are fully informed and prepared to act on matters of academic, student affairs, and research policy
  - Implement processes and policies in support of Board governance
  - Orient and train new regents to ensure continuity and stability
  - Lead policy development to promote student-centric governance
  - Implement an effective system of academic programs for student success
  - Expand access and affordability to higher education for all students
  - Serve as a member of statewide Council on Academic Affairs and Programs and liaison to the Presidents Leadership Council
- 2017–2020      **Chief Advancement Officer** – *Wiki Education, San Francisco, CA*
- Served as a strategic advisor to the CEO to advance org priorities
  - Developed strong relationships of trust with all Board members
  - Implemented processes and policies in support of Board governance
  - Raised \$7M to support organizational operations
  - Built a sustainable revenue model and fundraising strategy

- Co-designed multi-year org strategy and annual action plans
- Forged strong relationships with funders and other external partners
- Inspired teammates using enthusiastic and trust-based management

2019

**Adjunct Faculty Member** – *Boise State University, Boise, ID*

- Taught LEAD 350, Foundations of Leadership

2014–2017

**Program Officer** – *The William and Flora Hewlett Fnd., Menlo Park, CA*

- Developed strong relationships of trust with all Board members
- Ensured Board members were fully informed and prepared to act
- Advocated for and supported the worldwide OER community
- Funded the development of the 2019 UNESCO Recommendation on OER
- Forged trust-based relationships with global education leaders
- Awarded \$45M in philanthropic grants to over 35 non-profit orgs
- Designed and implemented an evidence-based philanthropic strategy

2013–2014

**Director of Assessment & Accountability** – *State Department of Education, Boise, ID*

- Rebuilt damaged relationships of trust with K-12 leaders across Idaho
- Informed Board members on matters related to assessment and accountability
- Unified statewide education community around a new accountability system
- Improved public understanding of a new statewide assessment system
- Liaised with federal, state, and local agencies and citizen groups
- Served as K12 Representative to Council on Academic Affairs and Programs
- Served as K12 Lead to Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

2012–2013

**Policy Fellow** – *International Assoc. for Online K-12 Learning, Washington, DC*

- Conducted research related to policy models and strategies for promoting and adopting OER in K-12 education systems
- Evaluated processes for collaborative development of OER
- Published and disseminated a national policy guide for states
- Published a guide on collaborative open content development

2010

**Adjunct Faculty Member** – *Doane College, Crete, NE*

- Taught BIO 101

2006-2010

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** – *University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE*

- Taught BIO 101 Laboratory

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Researcher** – *Open Education Group, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT*

- Developed model of college student perceptions of the quality of open digital textbooks *With R. R. Sudweeks, Ph.D. and David Wiley, Ph.D.*
- Developed the Cost, Outcome, Use, and Perceptions (COUP) research framework for OER *With David A. Wiley, Ph.D.*

**Graduate Research Assistant** – *David O. McKay School of Education, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT*

- Conducted item and rater analysis of Alberta Social Studies Diploma Exam using Many-facets Rasch analysis, Item Response Theory, and factor analysis *With R. R. Sudweeks, Ph.D and Holt Zaugg, Ph.D.*
- Conducted quantitative and qualitative research for Science Plus, a professional development program aimed at helping high school science teachers improve inquiry-based teaching *With Pamela Cantreall, Ph.D. and Leigh Smith, Ph.D.*

**Graduate Research Assistant** – *School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE*

- Implemented the principles of *Scientific Teaching* in a re-development of the recitation portion of BIOS 102, Introductory Biology for Majors *With T. Jack Morris, Ph.D. and R. L. Pardy, Ph.D.*
- Implemented the principles of *Scientific Teaching* in development of a laboratory module for BIOS 101L, Introductory Biology Laboratory for Non-Majors *With Jon Sandridge, Ph.D.*
- Analyzed nematode community structure in prairie and agricultural ecosystems *With Thomas O. Powers, Ph.D. and Chad Brassil, Ph.D.*
- Authored “Nematology” article on Wikipedia; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nematology>

**Graduate Intern** – *Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD*

- Refined fluorescent staining technique of the human malaria parasite in liver cells in preparation for micro-array analysis of post-infection cell-surface protein expression
- Dissected mosquitoes and purified malaria parasite for use in malaria vaccine research and development *With Ursula Kryzch, Ph.D.*

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** – *College of Life Sciences, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT*

- Developed and field-tested a high school geared inquiry-based experimental laboratory module using insect parasitic nematodes (**Bliss et al. 2007**) *With Byron J. Adams, Ph.D. et al.*
- Performed statistical analysis of post-secondary science assessments and developed rubrics studying the cognitive processes involved in scientific reasoning, particularly the ability to draw conclusions from experimental data *With William S. Bradshaw, Ph.D. and John D. Bell, Ph.D.*
- Isolated and characterized a novel symbiotic, non-pathogenic mutant of a nematode-associated insect parasitic bacterium (**Bliss et al. 2006**)
- Analyzed relative rates of molecular evolution of several Antarctic nematode species and closely related taxa *With Byron J. Adams, Ph.D.*

**CERTIFICATIONS**

Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning Global, *Online Learning Consortium* (20 hours)

Leading People and Teams Specialization, *Univ. of Michigan-Coursera* (20 hours)

Influencing People, *University of Michigan-Coursera* (20 hours)

Managing Talent, *University of Michigan-Coursera* (20 hours)

Inspiring and Motivating Individuals, *University of Michigan-Coursera* (20 hours)

The Art of Leadership, *Rockwood Leadership Institute* (70 hours)

## **HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP & SERVICE (selected)**

### **Member**

Executive Committee  
*Western Academic Leadership Forum*

### **Director**

National Alumni Board  
*Brigham Young University*

### **Member**

Council on Academic Affairs and Programs  
*Idaho State Board of Education*

### **Chair**

General Education Matriculation Committee  
*Idaho State Board of Education*

### **Higher Education State Lead**

State of Idaho  
*Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium*

### **Member**

Search Committee for Provost and Executive Vice President  
*Idaho State University*

### **Member**

Search Committee for Deputy Director  
*Office of the Idaho State Board of Education*

### **Member**

Faculty Search Committee  
*LEAD Program, Boise State University*

### **Chair**

Boise Chapter  
*BYU Alumni Association*

### **Member**

Building an Inclusive Culture Committee  
*The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*

### **Representative - Department of Education**

Council on Academic Affairs and Programs  
*Idaho State Board of Education*

**K-12 State Lead**

State of Idaho

*Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium*

**Design Team Member**

Northwest Rural School Improvement Network

*Northwest Comprehensive Center of Education Northwest*

**Community Member**

Internal Review Board

*Boise State University*

**Chair**

Education Committee

*Society of Nematologists*

**Member**

Search Committee for Professor of Practice

*School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

**Director**

Outstanding Biology Teacher Award Program for Nebraska

*National Association of Biology Teachers*

**Executive Chair**

Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

**Founder**

Science Education Research Journal Club

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

**Vice-Chair**

Education Committee

*Society of Nematologists*

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE (selected)**

**Chair**

Advisory Board

*Wiki Education Foundation*

**Founding Partner**

*Redfish Metrics, LLC*

**Board Member**

X5GON Project Advisory Board  
*European Commission*

**HONORS AND AWARDS (selected)**

Accomplished 40 Under 40, *Idaho Business Review*  
 Joe E. Covington Award, *National Association of Bar Examiners*  
 John M. Webster Award, *Society of Nematologists*  
 Best Paper Award, *Society of Nematologists*

**PUBLICATIONS (selected)**

- Lingwall, J. and **Bliss, T.** (2023) A Thousand Views of the Cathedral: The Law, Politics, and Statistics of Pandemic Dashboards. *Health Matrix*. 33 Health Matrix 393 (2023) Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/healthmatrix/vol33/iss1/7>
- Bliss, T.** (2022). OER Degrees. Network of Open Orgs' Collaborative Project: Case studies that demonstrate the success of Open Educational Resources. Available at: <https://www.oerafrica.org/node/13635/materials>
- Bliss, T.** (2018). You should be a policy advocate. *The Political Librarian* 4 (1): art5. Available online at <https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/polib/vol4/iss1/5>
- Contributing Author.** (2017) Ljubljana OER Action Plan. *2<sup>nd</sup> World Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress*. Available at <https://www.oercongress.org/woerc-actionplan/>
- Blessinger, P. and **Bliss, T.** (eds.), (2017) *Open Education: International Perspectives in Higher Education*. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers. <http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0103>.
- Bliss, T.,** & Smith, M. (2017). *A Brief History of Open Educational Resources*. In Jhangiani, R. S. and Biswas-Diener, R. (eds) *Open: The Philosophy and Practices that are Revolutionizing Education and Science*. London: Ubiquity Press. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/bbc>
- Bliss, T.,** and Patrick, S. (2013). *OER State Policy in K-12 Education: Benefits, Strategies, and Recommendations for Open Access, Open Sharing*. Report of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning. Published online on June 26 at [http://www.inacol.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/inacol\\_OER\\_Policy\\_Guide\\_v5\\_web.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/inacol_OER_Policy_Guide_v5_web.pdf)
- Bliss, T.,** Tonks, D., & Patrick, S. (2013). *Open Educational Resources and Collaborative Content Development: A Practical Guide for State and School Leaders*. Report of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning. Published online on June 19 at [http://www.inacol.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/inacol\\_OER\\_Collaborative\\_Guide\\_v5\\_web.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/inacol_OER_Collaborative_Guide_v5_web.pdf)

- Wiley, D., **Bliss, T.**, & McEwen, M. (2013). Open educational resources: A review of the literature. *Handbook of Research on Educational Communications & Technology* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.).
- Bliss, T.**, Hilton, J., Wiley, D., & Robinson, T. J. (2013). An OER COUP: Teacher and student perceptions of Open Educational Resources. *Journal of Interactive Media in Education, Spring Issue*. Published online at <http://jime.open.ac.uk/jime/article/view/2013-04>
- Bliss, T.**, Hilton, J., Wiley, D., & Thanos, K. (2013). College student and faculty perceptions of the cost and quality of open textbooks. *First Monday, 18* (1). Published online at <http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3972>
- Bliss, T.**, Allen, D. S., & Sudweeks, R. R. (2012). *Statistical methods to detect cheating on tests: A review of the literature*. Manuscript commissioned by the National Conference of Bar Examiners.
- Hilton, J., Wiley, D., & **Bliss, T.** (2012). Cost savings, learning impacts, and user perceptions of open textbooks. *Proceedings of Cambridge 2012: Innovation and Impact – Openly Collaborating to Enhance Education*, OCW Consortium and SCORE, Cambridge, UK, April 16–18 2012, Milton Keynes, The Open University, pp. 86-95, <http://oro.open.ac.uk/33640/>
- Bliss, T.**, Powers, T. O., & Brassil, C. E. (2010). The spatial influence of aboveground diversity on belowground communities. *Ecosphere* 1(2/3):art7. doi:10.1890/ES10-00040.
- Wang, K. -H., Sipes, B. S., Schmitt, D. P., MacGuidwin, A. E., McKenry, M., **Bliss, T.**, Kerry, B. R., & Costa, S. (2008). Plant nematological contributions to phytopathology. *APSnet Feature Story*. Published online at <http://apsnet.org/online/feature/nematology/>
- Bliss, T.**, Dillman, A., R., Russell, R., Anderson, M. K., Yourick, D., Jett, M., & Adams, B. J. (2007). Nematodes: Model organisms in high school biology. *The Science Teacher* 74(7): 34-40.

## PRESENTATIONS (selected)

- Bliss, T.**, Lahsley, J., Schwarz, T., Hope, E. (2023). Way to Go Idaho! Building Sustainable Statewide Academic Initiatives Through Open Education. *Open Education Global Conference*. Edmonton, AB. October 16.
- Bliss, T.**, Daugherty, L. (2023). Pop-Up Think Tank: How Should We Respond to Growing Public Opposition to Higher Education? *State Higher Education Executive Officers Annual Policy Meeting*. Denver, CO. August 8.
- Bliss, T.** (2022). The Role of Open Educational Resources (OER) in College Completion Efforts. *Complete College America Annual Convening*. Atlanta, GA. October 24. **Invited Presentation**
- Bliss, T.** (2022). Mentorship: A Key to Great Research (and Life). *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID. July 21. **Invited Keynote**

- Bliss, T.,** Lassner, D., and Jefferson, A. (2022) What's Up in the West: Academic Freedom in the Marketplace of Ideas. *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Annual Commission Meeting*. Grand Rapids, SD. May 16. **Plenary Panel**
- Bliss, T., et al.** (2019) Intro to the Education Space: Wikimedia and UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. *Wikimania*. Stockholm, Sweden. August 16. **Contributed Presentation**
- Bliss, T.** (2016). Closing Remarks. *Asia Regional Consultation for Open Educational Resources*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Invited Keynote.**
- Bliss, T.** (2016). An I-Frame for OER. *Open Education Conference*. Richmond, VA. November 4. **Invited Keynote Presentation**
- Bliss, T.,** Chow, B., Schmidt, D. (2016). Hewlett Strategy on OER. *Institute for Open Leadership*. Cape Town, South Africa. March 15. **Invited Presentation**
- Bliss, T.** (2015). OER in Higher Education. *Faculty Bootcamp*. California State University. Los Angeles, CA. August 6. **Invited Keynote**
- Bliss, T.** (2014). An Open Conversation about Open Educational Resources. *Meeting of Board of Directors of International Baccalaureate*. Vancouver, BC, Canada. August 1. **Invited Presentation**
- Bliss, T.** (2013). Common Core State Standards and CCSS-aligned assessments in Utah and Idaho. *Educational Inquiry, Measurement, and Evaluation Seminar*. Brigham Young University, Provo, UT. November 22. **Invited Presentation**
- Bliss, T.,** Redd, B., & Bruce, W. (2013). Readiness for 2014 Common Core assessments: Considerations for blended and online schools. *Blended and Online Learning Symposium, International Association for K-12 Online Learning*. Orlando, FL. October 28. **Invited Presentation**
- Bliss, T.** (2013) A model of digital textbook quality from the perspective of college students. *Educational Inquiry, Measurement, and Evaluation Seminar*. Brigham Young University, Provo, UT. January 11. **Invited Presentation**
- Bliss, T.,** Broughton, C., Hurley, T., Meadows, S., Morgan, G., & Wagner, E. (2012) Panel: Content for free-range learners. *WCET Conference*. San Antonio, TX. October 31 – November 3. **Invited Panelist**
- Bliss, T.,** (2012) A student measure of the quality of open digital textbooks. *Open Education Conference*. Vancouver, BC. October 16-18. **Contributed Paper**
- Bliss, T.** (2012) Introduction to open educational resources: Learning materials for all students. *Northern Rocky Mountain Education Research Association Annual Conference*. Park City, Utah. October 4-5. **Contributed Paper**
- Hilton, J., Wiley, D., & **Bliss, T.** (2012). Cost savings, learning impacts, and user perceptions of open textbooks. *OCWC12/OER12*. Cambridge, UK. April 17. **Contributed Paper**



