



## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE**

**Todd R. Benzin, B.A.**

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Todd Benzin, educational technology specialist in Instructional Design and Distance Learning, is efficient in his work, values the people he works with, and wants the best for the Buffalo State community.

During the past year, as faculty and staff members were learning new technologies and expanding their boundaries on how to best support students during the pandemic, Benzin was the reassuring voice on the end of the line. His "You can do it!" attitude inspired people who were unsure if they could meet the challenge. His encouragement and support went beyond what was expected of him, and his resilience and acceptance of change assured faculty and staff members that their work would be successful.

Benzin is careful in considering all aspects of how the college uses technology. With an increased usage of video for instruction and engagement through Ensemble, the campus-supported video platform, he initiated many projects to ensure that technology met campus needs while also being fiscally responsible. Benzin collaborated with Information

Technology for a captioning contract to meet ADA requirements that would provide a quick turnaround of captions at a sustainable price point. He also continuously communicated with Ensemble Anthem users to understand usage, and he made sure that if a license was no longer in use, it could be transferred to another faculty or staff member rather than purchasing additional licenses.

Benzin brings a smile, professionalism, and good humor to every conversation. He is effective because he listens to what people need and he works through challenges until a solution is found. He believes that people can learn new technologies, even when they don't believe it themselves. He stays with people until they find the confidence to proceed on their own. He is extraordinary in his ability to listen, meet people where they are, and find a way to move forward so that they can provide innovative instruction to students.

*Nominator: John D. Draeger, Ph.D., Professor, Philosophy; Director, Teaching and Learning Center*