Summer 2011 Online Enrollment

Thirty fully online classes were offered with 800 registered seats (51% of credit seats), an average of 26.6 students per class. This reflects an 18% increase over Summer 2010 registration. Six Blackboard on-campus orientations were provided to online students.

Online Course Development

Distance Learning staff have worked extensively with professors to develop 15 summer courses and 25 fall courses in Blackboard Vista.

Fall 2011 New Student Orientations

In August, we hosted the Technology Clinics in all three new student orientations. Students were given an overview of NetID/Password and how to access campus computers, MyCommNet, Student Self-Service, Blackboard, and library databases. With the help of Professor Raymond, students got a chance to log on with NetID and create new passwords.

Technology Resources Video was used in the Technology Clinic. It is available online at: http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/distance/STechVideos/StuTechResources.html

SmarterMeasure Implementation Webinar

This summer, SmarterMeasure, Inc. hosted a webinar, “Getting the Most from SmarterMeasure-Best Practices & Case Studies”. As one of the four panelists, Dr. Yi Guan-Raczkowski gave a brief overview on how MxCC has implemented the SmarterMeasure test (formerly known as READI) to improve student retention and enhance student support in online learning.

Since Spring 2009, about 2400 MxCC students have benefited from the SmarterMeasure test. Students’ grades from six semesters at MxCC indicate that the failing rate in fully online courses was reduced by 50% after SmarterMeasure’s implementation.

Blackboard Learn Implementation

Online Blackboard Learn Tutorials were developed for students to learn Blackboard Learn basics. http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/distance/bblorIENTATION/index.html

Two sessions of on-campus orientations were provided to help online students learn basic features. In Fall 2011, Professor Terry McNulty, Professor Marci Swede, and Dr. Yi Guan-Raczkowski are the first group of faculty at MxCC using Blackboard Learn in their courses.
Fall 2011 Technology Training Schedule

Location: Chapman 629 (unless otherwise noted)

Seat Reservation: email to mxccdistance@mxcc.commnet.edu or call (860) 343-5756.
More training sessions offered at other community colleges can be found in the ITT Course Cart at https://www.commnet.edu/academics/iitt/coursecart.asp. Click on Launch Course Cart button. Logon with your NetID and password.

Friday, 9/16/2011
9:00 am—12 Noon  Getting Started with Blackboard Vista
Extensive session with Blackboard basic features: syllabus, announcements, mail, calendar, discussions, and student tracking reports. Bring your syllabus and class files for practice.

Friday, 9/23/2011
9:00 am—12 Noon  Getting Started with Blackboard Vista (see 9/16/11 for description)

Friday, 9/30/2011
10:00 am – 12 Noon  Web 2.0 Overview: Google Docs
Google Docs is a free, online alternative to Microsoft Office. Discover this great tool for faculty, staff and students who work from multiple computers. Access your Google Docs files from any computer with an internet access. Review of MxCC Web 2.0 Guidelines.

Friday, 10/7/2011
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  Microsoft Excel 2007
Learn the basics of using this spreadsheet application. Calculations, sorting and simple record-keeping will be addressed. Simple graphs and charts created on the data in the spreadsheet will be learned.

Friday, 10/14/2011
9:00 am – 10:20 am  Web 2.0 Social Networking: Facebook Profile v. Groups v. Pages
Facebook seems to be everywhere. We will examine the difference between a Facebook Profile, Group and Pages so that you are better informed on how you might want to use Facebook for yourself, your division or department. Review of MxCC Web 2.0 Guidelines.

Friday, 10/14/2011
10:30 am – 12 Noon  Web 2.0 Wikis and Prezi.com
Discover how a free online wiki tool allows users to add and edit content collectively. And check out Prezi.com - how presentations go Web 2.0 live and on the web. Review of MxCC Web 2.0 Guidelines.

Friday, 10/21/2011
9:00 am – 12 Noon  More with Blackboard Vista
This session is for faculty who have taken Getting Started with Blackboard Vista and would like to do more with Blackboard Vista. It will review how to organize content such as notes or handouts. Learning how to use Gradebook and Assignments (dropboxes) will be a major focus.

Friday, 10/28/2011
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm  Peek Under the Hood: Blackboard Learn
This demonstration will provide faculty with an introduction to Blackboard Learn, the newest version of the Blackboard learning management system (LMS), which will replace our current Blackboard Vista system in Fall 2012.

Friday, 11/4/2011
10:00 am – 12 noon  Peek Under the Hood: Blackboard Learn (see 10/28/11 for description)

Visit the MxCC Tech Training web page for training handouts at:
http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/Content/Educational_Technology_Training.asp