Educational Technology News
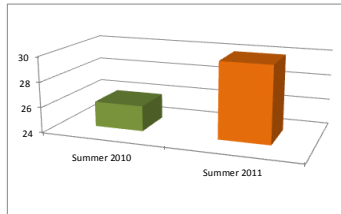
from **MxCC Distance Learning**
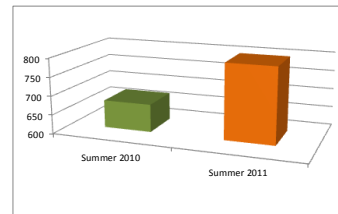
Summary 2011 Online Enrollment

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.

Average Students per Class

Total Seats per Semester

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.

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 IITT 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

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Chapman 632/633
mxccdistance@mxcc.commnet.edu ~ 860-343-5756 ~ Monday to Friday 9:00 am—5:00 pm
Yi Guan-Raczkowski, Director of Distance Learning   Sandra Couture, Educational Technology Specialist
Elizabeth Tauanuu, Distance Learning Assistant