



# Fall 2015 Educational Technology Newsletter



10/1/2015 ~ Fall 2015 Edition 1

## Blackboard Learn Implementation

The Blackboard direct access was changed to <http://ct-cc.blackboard.com>. We advise faculty and students to change the bookmark to this new address.

There were “Insync” instances between Banner and Blackboard. Registered students may not see their courses or may see a dropped course in Blackboard. Faculty may see a course they are not assigned to teach. In such a case, students and faculty may contact distance learning for assistance at [mxccdistan@mxcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mxccdistan@mxcc.commnet.edu) or 860-343-5756.

## Distance Learning

### Summer 2015

Forty-eight online courses were offered in four summer sessions, reflecting a 23% increase over Summer 2014 course offerings. There were 1,083 registered seats with a 29.7% increase over Summer 2014.

Seven sessions of orientation were provided for first time online students, and WebEx conference technology was used for students who could not travel to MxCC campuses.

All online courses were backed up and archived in the Distance Learning/Educational Technology department.

### Fall 2015

Sixty-eight online courses are offered with 9 new courses and a total of 1,641 seats, reflecting a 10.5% increase over Fall 2015.

Five orientations for new online students were provided and 25 students attended the orientations.

In collaboration with Academic Success Center, we will be piloting the use of Blackboard and WebEx technology to offer tutoring for online students. At Blackboard – Virtual Campus site, on the Online Tutoring page, students may submit English papers and a tutor will review the papers and provide comment. On the same page, students may also request a session of online tutoring that will be provided via WebEx.

Supported by the Life & Health Science grant and the Distance Learning fund, 8 MxCC faculty are taking the nine-week iTeach Essentials online course offered at the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium to receive extensive training in online teaching pedagogy.

## Educational Technology

MyCommNet was upgraded with new interface starting on July 6th. We updated the web pages, instructional manuals, bookmarks, brochures, and instructional videos.

### 21st Century Classroom project

Led by Yi Guan-Raczkowski, the academic support team members, Wei Cen, Lan Liu, Judy Mazgulski, and Barbara Giffin, worked together and developed a proposal to build the Learning Commons – Pegasus Green in the college library.

The Instructional Technology Advisory Group members reviewed the proposals from the two academic schools and the student support services. The Learning Commons – Pegasus Green proposal was approved by the group members as the MxCC project to be supported by the system’s 21st Century Classroom fund.

### Life & Health Science Grant

In Summer 2015, Blackboard course shells were created for faculty to develop booster modules. The booster modules and the deliverable online courses were copied for Microburst’s staff to review. Kate Miller and Yi Guan-Raczkowski served on the Steering Committee for the grant. On request, various booster modules were imported to summer and fall Blackboard courses.

We hosted Technology Clinic sessions during the six sessions of New Student Orientation.

In summer, LinkedIn, WebEx, Blackboard SafeAssign, and Blackboard Kaltura workshops were provided to faculty and staff. The sessions were well-received.

Blackboard Grade Center workshops were provided on the Adjunct Professional Development day.

Three sessions of Getting Started with Blackboard were offered to faculty in the beginning of the fall semester.

Four sessions of Blackboard and WebEx training were offered to the tutors at the Academic Support Center.

Faculty Resources and Blackboard training was provided at the new adjunct orientation.

Eight sessions of Tech Talk Series are scheduled this fall on Fridays from 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. in the Library Computer Classroom. Four webinars on Webex, Kaltura, and SafeAssign are also scheduled. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for schedule.

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Founders 131/131A

[mxccdistan@mxcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mxccdistan@mxcc.commnet.edu) ~ 860-343-5756 ~ Monday to Friday 8:00 am —5:00 pm

Yi Guan-Raczkowski, Director of Distance Learning/Ed Tech

Sandra Couture, Educational Technology Specialist

# Fall 2015 Technology Training Schedule

Registration for training is required. Location for training will be given upon registration.

Complete schedule available at: <http://mxcc.edu/ett/>

Register by emailing [mxccdistanace@mxcc.comnet.edu](mailto:mxccdistanace@mxcc.comnet.edu) with your name, phone number, date, time and title of the training session you would like to attend.

## Blackboard Learn Online Tests

Prerequisites: Faculty has attended Getting Started with Blackboard Learn.

This session will show how to create an online test and provide tips to import test banks from publishers.

*Friday, 10/2/15 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm, Middletown campus*

## How to Develop Mobile-Friendly Blackboard Courses

Prerequisite: Faculty has attended Getting Started with Blackboard Learn.

This session will go over the settings and navigation in Blackboard Learn Mobile. Tips for developing a mobile friendly Blackboard course will be explored.

*Friday, 10/9/15 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm, Middletown campus*

## Professional Evaluation Process for Online Courses

This session will show and explain the procedure of evaluating online faculty based on 4Cs union approved guidelines. Online professors and program coordinators are welcome to attend.

*Friday, 10/16/15 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm, Middletown campus*

## Webinar: Webex Online Meetings

WebEx lets you have online meetings with anyone who has an Internet connection. You will be connected via audio and you can share content from your computer which lets you see the same things at the same time -- like PowerPoint files, Word documents or even browse the web together.

- Free Webex account for all staff and faculty
- May be used from a campus or home computer
- Good tool to hold online office hours at convenient times for faculty and students
- Useful tool to be able to hold class online if college campus is closed

*Wednesday, 10/21/15, 10:00 am - 11:30 am*

*Tuesday, 10/27/15, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm*

## Webinar: Kaltura in Blackboard

Kaltura is a streaming video feature available in Blackboard. It provides instructors with the ability to embed streaming video directly into your Blackboard class. Students can play video from right inside the Blackboard class.

*Wednesday, 10/21/15, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm*

## Educational Apps for Science and Business

The mobile device can be an invaluable tool for learning — no matter your subject area. One of the biggest trends for 2015 is the incorporation of more apps into classroom curriculum including gamification, collaboration, critical thinking, self-learning and assessment apps.

This session explores how to use apps (many of them free or low-cost) to make your class more interactive, educational, and engaging to students.

*Friday, 10/23/15 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm, Middletown campus*

## Webinar: SafeAssign in Blackboard

SafeAssign is a plagiarism prevention feature available in Blackboard. It provides instructors with the ability to detect originality and proper citations in student work.

*Tuesday, 10/27/15, 10:00 am - 11:30 am*

## Educational Apps for Humanities, English, and Social Sciences

The mobile device can be an invaluable tool for learning — no matter your subject area. One of the biggest trends for 2015 is the incorporation of more apps into classroom curriculum including gamification, collaboration, critical thinking, self-learning and assessment apps.

This session explores how to use apps (many of them free or low-cost) to make your class more interactive, educational, and engaging to students.

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