Blackboard and Other Academic Technology

In the beginning of the fall semester, numerous problems in Blackboard were reported. The root cause of the problems is a JAVA "overflow" in Blackboard. To resolve the problems, the Blackboard server needs to be restarted to clean out corrupted JAVA files. Meanwhile, faculty and students are recommended to clean up JAVA cache and browser cache. The links to the instructions are posted on the Blackboard My Institution page.

WebEx

The WebEx's logon URL has changed to https://ctedu.webex.com. Faculty and staff may use WebEx by logging on with their Banner ID and password.

Blackboard Ultra

Blackboard Ultra will be piloted during Spring 2019. In Spring 2018, a group of faculty will be selected to participate in the pilot and will receive two full days of training. If you are interested in joining the MxCC Ultra pilot team, please contact Yi Guan-Raczkowski, Director of Distance Learning/Educational Technology at mxccdistance@mxcc.commnet.edu. We would like to see a group of faculty from various disciplines to participate.

Distance Learning

Summer 2017

Fifty online classes were offered throughout five terms with an enrollment of 954 students, reflecting a 2% increase over Summer 2016. Seven sessions of orientations were provided to first-time online students.

Fall 2017

Sixty-eight online courses are offered with 1549 registered seats, reflecting a 2.7% decrease over Fall 2016. Four sessions of orientations were provided to first-time online students.

Ed2Go Online Learning

Since August of 2016, 155 students have registered for Ed2go online courses or online programs. Among them, 27 students are enrolled in online career training programs, and 8 students have successfully completed the programs and received a certificate.

Winter 2017

Twenty-one online courses are on schedule. To help first-time online students get started, two sessions of orientation are scheduled on Thursday December 21st. Professors are expected to have their winter online course ready SEVEN days before their class starts.

Spring 2018

Sixty-nine online courses are on the schedule, and four sessions of orientation are scheduled to help first-time online students get started with online learning.

The campus orientation schedule for first-time online students may be found at http://mxcc.edu/distance/campus-orientation. All sessions will have WebEx capability. Online faculty should encourage their first time online students to attend an orientation.

The distance learning web site has been updated for Winter 2017 and Spring 2018 online courses. To help promote the online courses, all Winter 2017 and Spring 2018 online courses have been entered into the CTDLC databases at http://ctdlc.org.

Educational Technology

Educational Technology Training in Fall 2017

We provided the following technology workshops:

- Getting Started with Blackboard
- Blackboard Grade Center and Online Tests
- Pegasus Green Showcase
- Google Docs

Two more trainings will be offered in November:

- Teaching with Infographics, Friday November 9th, 10:00 am -11:30 am
- LinkedIn 101: Learn How to Get Connected, Friday November 17th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

21st Century Classrooms

A web site has been developed at http://mxcc.edu/learning-commons/pegasus-green to provide functional features in each of the rooms as well as detailed room reservation information.

If a faculty member would like to use a Pegasus Green room regularly for a class, please contact your division's academic director.

For other use of the facility, contact a librarian to schedule a room.

Service Evaluation

As a division of the MxCC Learning Commons, Distance Learning/Educational Technology department is under a review by the college Academic Review Team. A service satisfaction survey will be distributed to college community in the month of November.

Blackboard Troubleshooting Tips

When you encounter the following problems in Blackboard: cannot load a grade center, edit feature does not work, cannot attach files in an assignment box, cannot post messages on discussion boards, etc., clean the browser cache and the JAVA cache first.

Clear Browser Cache
http://www.refreshyourcache.com/en/home

Clear JAVA Cache
https://www.java.com/en/download/help/plugin_cache.xml

If the problem persists, contact the 24/7 Help Desk at (860)723-0221.

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Chapman Hall 702/703
mxccdistance@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