Spring 2015
Educational Technology Newsletter

Blackboard Learn

Fall 2012 courses in Blackboard will be deleted during the week of May 11th. **Faculty using Blackboard Grade Center should download Grade Centers for record keeping**. BOR policy is to keep students Grade record for 5 years. Instruction on downloading a grade center can be found at http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r91/movies/ bb91_grade_center_working_offline.htm

Gradebook in all Fall 2012 online and hybrid courses have been downloaded and archived in distance learning.

Non-Credit Courses need a special setting in Banner to create Blackboard shells. Faculty teaching non-credit courses should inform Patti Hard if they would like to use Blackboard in their non-credit courses.

Distance Learning

Summer 2015

Sixty-nine online courses, a 76% increase over Summer 2014 course offerings, are scheduled throughout all four summer sessions with five new courses. These new courses include:

- CJS 213 Evidence & Criminal Procedure
- COM120 Social Media
- SOC 117 Minorities in the US
- POL 103 Intro to International Relations
- HLT 160 Introduction to Public Health

Fall 2015

Sixty-four online courses, a 14% increase in course offerings over Fall 2014, are scheduled with 8 new courses:

- BMK 230 Advertising & Promotion
- COM 203 Journalism
- CSC 262 Programming Mobile Devices I
- CJS 211 Criminal Law I
- CJS 255 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice
- ECN 102 International Economics
- HIM 112 Medical Insurance & Reimbursement
- HIM 203 Pathophysiology

The enrollment update was completed for NEASC 2014 -2015 Distance Learning report. Currently, General Studies offer fully online courses. Thirteen academic programs offer at least 50% online courses: Accounting, Biotechnology, Broadcast-Cinema, Business Administration, Communication, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Health Information Management, Human Services, Information System, Liberal Arts and Science, Management Information Systems, and Marketing.

Thirteen sessions of campus orientation are scheduled during summer and fall, and all sessions will provide WebEx access to students who cannot travel to campus.

We worked with marketing staff to promote online courses in Facebook and Google in May for summer/fall courses and August for fall courses. Meanwhile, four blog posts on how to get ready for online learning will be posted in social media venues of MxCC throughout summer.

MxCC Distance Learning is located in Founders 131/131A
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

Educational Technology

On, April 10th, 2015, MxCC hosted the second annual Technology Showcase with over 110 registrations from colleges and universities in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Special thanks to Sandra Couture, Terry McNulty, and Eva Jones who organized the event as well as IRM members, IT staff, and other colleagues who helped at this event.

Working with Health & Life Science Grant coordinator, Kate Miller, as well as faculty involved in the grant, booster modules were developed and imported to Spring 2015 Life Science courses.

MyCommNet will be upgraded with new interface starting July 6th. The new interface was evaluated and feedback was provided to the Luminis implementation team.

Participated in "Experience College Day" on March 19th with information on distance learning at MxCC.

Taught Social Media section in two BBG115 Business Software Application courses and Linkedin section in FS 100 Freshman Seminar course.

Presented at MILE on "Staying Safe in the Mobile World".

Spring 2015 Technology Showcase

The keynote speaker, Ann DeMarle from Champlain College, gave a well-received keynote titled "Work and Play: Applying Game Design Thinking for Education and Business." Her presentation centered around the dilemma that many innovative institutions, organizations, and educators encounter when they grapple with the new challenge of harnessing "participation bandwidth." It explored perspectives from the world of play, taking cues from game designers, virtual world builders, and play experts to design strategies and experiences that increase engagement and motivation for otherwise "serious" initiatives inside and outside the classroom.

The conference featured seven breakout sessions from presenters that came from the CT Community Colleges, the CSUs, as well as one presenter, Dr. Rebecca Graetz, from Inver Hills Community College in Minnesota. The breakout session topics included ADA compliance issues that were discussed in "Strategies for Promoting Learner Accessibility in the Online Environment: Supporting Instructors" and "Closed Captioned Videos in Online and Hybrid Courses: Does captioning really make a difference in student's learning."
New classroom technology and apps were explored in breakout sessions "Learn to Swivl Your Way in the Classroom" featuring an easy-to-use in-class video recording system, "ScaleNet: A New App for Music Theory Classes," and "Virtual Life & Death" that showcased Shadow Health, a software that replicates real life nursing situations for student nurses.

More hands-on sessions included: "Online Student Roundtable", in which current MxCC students gave important feedback about their experiences and "Going Beyond Bland: Developing Meaningful Peer Feedback Online," in which people learned how to build a better discussion model in online classes. Learn what LinkedIn is, why people use it, and how faculty and students may connect in it. Also, pertinent facts and statistics about the current job search market, the key role social media recruiting plays, and how to maximize LinkedIn's potential for expanding your own professional network.

Technology Showcase presentation files may be found at: http://mxcc.edu/techshowcase2015

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