

Special Interest

eCampus Bulletin

Distance Learning
Instructor receives
Quality Matters recognition

DL Courses get a makeover

Universal Design=Accessibility

Look for Fall Edition coming in
August 2007

Distance Learning Update The LeCroy Center

Dallas County Community
College District
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West meets East and welcomes Estonia eLearning

Slightly smaller than the state of New Hampshire and Vermont combined, this small country situated on the Gulf of Finland, is making big waves in education. With a population of 1.3 million, Estonia touts a literacy rate of 99.8%. "If you have no education, you have nothing," or so the locals say.

One of the latest initiatives in learning is distance learning, making it available through a consortium of 39 universities and vocational institutions. Ene Tammeoru runs the Estonian e-Learning Development Centre, which coordinates web-based training to more than 68,000 students around the country. The four-year-old project grew out of local citizenry demand for "mobile technology learning".

The mission of the project is to promote and provide access and resources



for online education to small countries with limited resources and experience. The DCCCD welcomed Tammeoru to Dallas June 4-8. She was invited to the district as part of a United States visit and a national speaking engagement for the NUTN 2007 Conference on "Future Directions in Distance Learning: Key Trends to Watch." Tammeoru presented an overview of the Estonian e-University program to the LeCroy Center staff along with members of

a DCCCD delegation that traveled to Finland and Estonia last summer as part of an exploration trip. In addition to visiting the LCET, she met with a team from Richland College, El Centro College, North Lake College, the District Office and The University of Texas at Dallas. For more about the eLearning Project, contact Angela Auzenne, 972-669-6657 or aauzenne@dcccd.edu

Jane Penney makes Quality Matter

Eastfield College Sociology Faculty, Jane Penney is the first DCCCD instructor to have her online course, Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1301) recognized as approved by Quality Matters.



The course was reviewed by a trained Quality Matters Peer Review Team and is now recognized as meeting Quality Matters Review Standards. To find a full list of the 2007 recognized faculty and courses, including Jane Penney's,

go to: <http://www.qualitymatters.org/Courses%202007.htm>.

The QM review process is dynamic and reflects national standards of best practices and research literature. The model consists of eight general standards.

1. Course Overview & Introduction
2. Competencies
3. Assessment & Measurement
4. Learning Resources & Materials
5. Learner Interaction
6. Course Technology
7. Learner Support
8. Accessibility

TV /TVP Instructors

If you are teaching a TV or TVP course for your college during the Fall 2007 semester, contact the LeCroy Center for course materials; videos, CD's, DVD's, syllabus, test banks and telecourse programming schedules. For more information, contact the LCET College Services, Jim Picquet 972-669-6408 or jpicquet@dcccd.edu

Think you have what it takes to have the QM stamp of approval? Here's a quick test:

Is your course is easy to navigate from the student's view point? Where is the student's attention directed to when they enter your course?

Does your course change over time? Are student learning objectives stated clearly?

Do the tools and media support the learning objectives?

Does the course demonstrate sensitivity to readability issues?

If the answers are yes, you are on your way. If you would like more information, contact Ed Bowen, LeCroy Center, 972-669-6406.



The LeCroy Center

Dallas County Community Colleges

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.



eCampus Bulletin

Faculty Notice

The eCampus Staff will begin moving/copying course content into the Fall 2008 semester shells starting July 9th.

How do I get my course in the eCampus shell?

If you would like your course to be on eCampus, please have your division secretary request your course for eCampus on the SOFF screen of Colleague. Then use the XEFS screen and set up the primary course. If you have any secondary courses to be "linked" to the primary course they should also be added at this time on the XEFS screen. This process will create your course and enroll students as they are registered.

If you have content to be copied, please fill out the request form, which can be found at <http://ollie.dcccd.edu/ecampus>.

Course Re-Design Projects Stretch Across Texas

Texas leaders recognize that over 90% of new jobs that will be available to students in the 21st century require some postsecondary education. State of Texas legislation (HB#1) now requires community colleges and universities to address college readiness and success.

One of the strategies involves course redesign of entry-level lower division academic courses. Many Texas higher education institutions are employing the use technology to address these mandates.

The DCCCD is currently partnering with Texas Tech University (TTU) on the

course redesign for English 1301. Cedar Valley, Eastfield, and Richland faculty members (CVC- Rebekah Rios Harris, EFC - Michael Morris, and RLC- Jane Peterson) are piloting a new approach to teaching and grading hybrid English 1301 courses.

The DCCCD has submitted proposals for a second round of funding for Course Redesign efforts. Pending proposals include English 1302 with Eastfield College (Betsy Joseph) and TTU; Spanish 1411 with Eastfield College (Christina Fox-Balli) and Richland College (Kevin Beard); Developmental Writing with Richland College (Douglas Wilson) and the University of North Texas; and Humanities 1315 which includes six colleges from the

Humanities Discipline Committee (BHC, EFC, ECC, MVC, NLC and RLC) and the University of Texas @ Dallas. Mountain View College's faculty member Janice Franklin is coordinating this Humanities effort.

The Coordinating Board intends to issue additional funding to support more course redesign efforts that use technology to improve student performance. The LeCroy Center is interested in working with other faculty members on the next phase of Course Redesign.

If you are interested in working on this initiative, please contact Theresa Roffino at 972-669-6652 or troffino@dcccd.edu.

DCCCD takes on Universal Design

Universal Design is an approach to the design of all products and environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation. It serves people who are young or old, with excellent or limited abilities, in ideal or difficult circumstances. Universal design benefits everyone by accommodating limitations. (Universal Design Education Online Web Site: © 2002-2004 Center for Universal Design, N.C. State University)

In an on-going effort to raise awareness of online course accessibility and design, a collaborative team, The Universal Design for Learning Team (UDL), has been formed to share resources and trends in Universal Design: Kellie

Hickman, Disability Services, Brookhaven College; Karin Reed, Disability Services, El Centro College; Susan Hackett, College Services, LeCroy Center; Nahid Pope, Disability Services, North Lake College; Judy Elimelech, Disability Services, Richland College.

3 simple things you can do now to make your course more accessible.

1. Use alt tags for all graphics.
2. Make your hyperlinks meaningful and not just "click here" .
3. Use tables without nesting them with a brief, one-line description such as "A 3 by 6 table demonstrating the growth in taxes over 3 years, 1997-1999."

For more tips on making your class more accessible, go to the DL Accessibility Forum on Blackboard.

For use by DCCCD faculty, instructional designers, and those interested in making online courses accessible, including resources, checklists, and background materials:

- Go to <http://eCampus.dcccd.edu>
- Click on the "Courses" listing
- Enter your 7-digit ID with an 'e' in front for both user name and password.
- Type in "DL Accessibility Forum"

For additional information, contact Susan Hackett, 972-669-6404 or shackett@dcccd.edu