



An electronic newsletter for DCCCD employees designed to provide you with up-to-date information on distance learning services, resources and events available through The LeCroy Center for Educational Telecommunications. Contact us at 972-669-6657.



- Fall Edition 2009
- Blackboard 9.0 Release
- Online Spanish Redesign
- Course Makeovers
- CE on the Web
- Tweeting Teacher
- FAST Team
- R U on Facebook

Save the Date!



Universal Design and Accessibility Forum

"Making Every Class Accessible for Every Student"

September 24, 2009
8:30 am-3:30 pm
The LeCroy Center

Inclusion is a key element in

Blackboard 9.0 Debuts in 2009

It has an all new sleek navigation system, user-friendly drag-and-drop menus, and new tools for social networking capabilities. It's the new Blackboard Release 9.0, coming to eCampus this Winter-semester. The newly designed learning management system will allow for mobility for the *Generation-Y* student to engage in anytime, anywhere learning.



This new release took into consideration the social networking phenomenon and expanded Web 2.0 and "social learning" tools, such as podcasts and journals, a redesigned, customizable user interface and more opportunity for student-to-student and student-to-faculty collaboration. Look for new capabilities with blogs, group tools, journals, and student notifications (i.e., "Your paper is due in four hours" - or four days). The SafeAssign plagiarism detection software will continue to be available as well.

Some of the new features in release 9.0 include:

- Facebook integration, including access to course information and alerts within Facebook
- New navigation capabilities, including enhanced keyboard navigation
- Easy inetergration with assistive technologies such as screen readers
- Less 'clicks' required
- Drag-and-drop menus
- Automatically hide content

Contact [Pat Lawton](#) for more information.

Extended Hours for Faculty Help Desk

You asked for it -- extended faculty Help Desk hours are now available from 7:00 am - 12:00 midnight, Monday through Friday, and 3:30 pm - 12:00 midnight on weekends. For assistance with online course content, eCampus tools, or technical assistance contact the Faculty Help Desk at 972-669-6460 or helpdesk@dcccd.edu

Course Makeovers: Redesigned and Ready

student retention and success.

[Register today](#)

Quicklinks

- [The LeCroy Center](#)
- [Dallas TeleCollege](#)
- [Dallas TeleLearning](#)
- [STARLINK](#)
- [eCampus eConnect](#)
- [DCCCD Cable TV](#)
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STARLINK
Professional
Development 2009-
10

Sept. 28 - Oct. 12 Funding
Sources for Your Courses:
New Initiatives, Programs
and Partnerships

Nov. 30 - Dec. 14 Meeting
the Challenges of Dual
Credit: Building Bridges to
Student Success

Jan. 25 - Feb. 8 Utilizing
Web 2.0 Apps to Enhance
Teaching & Learning

[Complete STARLINK
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[Textbooks on Your iPhone](#)

[Is Social Media a Fad?](#)



Spanish 1411

Everything old is new again. That old cliché is becoming more and more evident in this day of technology. As a result, several DCCCD distance learning courses have gone through a "an extreme course makeover, or course redesign."

The ability to converse in Spanish requires more than adept verb conjugation or and an extensive vocabulary; it requires the ability to communicate verbally and in writing within a cultural context. A redesigned version of Spanish 1411 has been developed by faculty at Eastfield and Richland Colleges in partnership with the LeCroy Center. Funding for the project is through a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and guidelines from the National Center for Academic Transformation. Course materials for this redesigned version are now available to full-time and adjunct faculty in the DCCCD. In this redesign project, the focus is on extensive use of the language in the classroom.

For more information on [SPAN 1411...](#)

English 1302 - Composition II

Course materials for a required course in Tier 2 of the recommended Core Curriculum - English 1302 Composition II - are now available to full-time and adjunct faculty in the DCCCD. The course redesign for English 1302 uses the award-winning half-hour videos from "The Writer's Odyssey" course produced by the LeCroy Center. It also includes interactive activities, one-minute animated "Quick Tips" on writing and punctuation, two hosts who provide context and insight, interviews with writers from various professions, and dramatic vignettes in which actors encounter the kinds of real-life issues writing students encounter.

The companion course, ENGL 1301, has been available since 2008. It is based on the video series "The Writer's Circle" produced by the LeCroy Center. Earlier this year, the The Writer's Circle video series earned two Bronze Telly awards in the Education/Academic category.

[For more information on the English Composition Courses...](#)



Continuing Education Meets the Web

Two newly developed continuing education courses will be available online beginning Fall 2009-- Power Point I and Excel I. The collaborative project was developed by the LeCroy Center and continuing education staff members from Eastfield College.

At the request of the seven DCCCD Continuing Education deans, the course was designed to use templates in PowerPoint 2007 and Excel 2007. The PowerPoint I template has seven modules and requires 20 hours. Excel I has 28 modules and requires 28 hours. The online templates include a syllabus, video segments, computer animations with Captivate (explain) and narration voice-over, and interactive activities.

Ready to get started? Contact [Grace Rutherford](#)



Tweeting Teacher

Interview by Lauren Mang

Amid teaching and earning two online degrees (she's pursuing a third), DCCCD English instructor Scarlett Hill has a big presence online. The social media guru, who takes up a full-time gig at Brookhaven College this fall, tells us why Twitter, Facebook and blogging is a must in every professor's repertoire.

Read more about [Tweeter Scarlett Hill...](#)

[A Students' Guide to The First Week of School](#)

[Tips for New Teachers at Community Colleges](#)

The Distance Learning Newsletter

Angela Auzenne

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Faculty Like FAST Work

More and more DCCCD faculty are jumping on the FAST (Faculty Access to Supportive Technologies) Team bandwagon. It's only been six-months and more than 75 faculty members have worked on course technology needs with the Team. Everything from Quality Matters Course Reviews to Using Technology in the Hybrid Course Format has been tackled.

M. Ahad Hayaud-Din, Political Science Instructor at Brookhaven College, had this to say, *"In my interactions with the team, I have found them to be attentive to issues, ready to take on challenges and highly informed on a wide variety of distance education topics. The FAST team is a true asset to the district and to instructional designers."*

Kay Hampshire, Instructional Designer for the LeCroy Center agreed. *"What a great website packed with..... I especially like the accessibility and instructional design information. You're providing a great service to the District."*

The FAST Team welcomes its latest member Cheryl Wells as an instructional technology facilitator.

Read more about the [FAST Team...](#)



R U on FB

Started by a Harvard University Student in 2003, Facebook has become one of the hottest crazes in today's internet. Coincidentally, the world of higher education is one of the groups that can stand to benefit from its almost universal reach. Facebook allows users to share photos, stories, life

experiences, advice and more in a way that has not been possible before. Distance learning students can interact in close to real-time with professors and fellow classmates. Campus news can be disseminated quickly and targeted only to the people to whom the information is relevant.

Facebook has become a major player in the world of social media. With over 41 million new users in the United States alone over the past few months, Facebook cannot be ignored. The DCCCD and the Dallas TeleCollege are making efforts to become major assets within that world.

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

What's **NEW** on DCCCD Cable TV

Diversity Series

African Americans- Mondays 11am, 7pm

Hispanics - Wednesdays 1pm, 9pm

Women - Saturdays, 1pm, 7pm

Friday and Sunday Matinee Hour - 12noon - **New movie classics showing weekly**

[Check out the complete DCCCD TV Schedule](#)



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