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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.

Spring/Summer Edition

April 2010

It's FREE to You
 Government Debuts Fall 2010
 eCampus Updates
 Textbook + iPad = \$\$\$
 Feature- Noreen Warwick
 Making Classes Accessible

Worth Reading

[Higher Education and Foursquare](#)

By Nic Hernandez (LCET)

[What is Google Buzz?](#)

By Nic Hernandez (LCET)

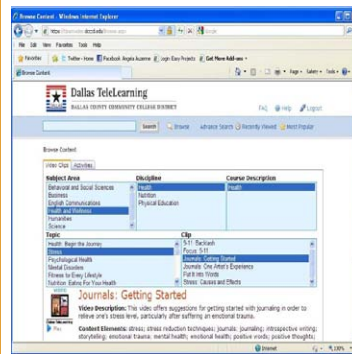
[Using iPads at Any Age](#)

By Patti Jennings (LCET)

Quicklinks

- [More About Us](#)
- [Dallas TeleCollege Online](#)
- [Dallas TeleLearning](#)
- [Watch DCCCD Cable TV](#)

- [FAST Team Faculty Assistance](#)
- [STARLINK Professional Development](#)



FREE!
 More than 2500 Digital Video Clips and More

In a face-to-face class, students have many opportunities to interact with their instructor or fellow students. Contrary to many beliefs, you can replicate that experience in an online learning environment. In today's age

of web 2.0 tools and evolving technology, creating that "engagement factor" is only a click away. One of many tools available to faculty in the DCCCD is the use of video components. And, we should know a lot about that, the LeCroy Center has been developing some of the best video programs in the country since 1972. We have compiled, clipped, sorted and tagged clips from our vast reels of video rolls (enough to loop the metroplex 10 times or more). We have also just added 300 additional clips from the Accounting series. Its' all free to you.

Here are a few samples:

- [The Global Economy](#)
- [Happy Days](#)
- [Harder Than Rocket Science](#)

In addition, the DCCCD has access to other national digital repositories that cover diverse topics from agriculture to criminal justice, to mathematics in Spanish.

- [The LeCroy Center Digital Resource Repository](#) - The DRR is a library of more than 2500 video and multimedia activities to help develop the ideal course. The interactive flash activities span the following disciplines: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Sociology, General Business, Health, Nutrition, U.S. History, English, Government, Anatomy & Physiology, and Physical Fitness.
- [NROC](#) - The National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) is a growing library of high-quality online course content for students and faculty in higher education, high school and Advanced

[-NUTN Teaching and Learning](#)
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Placement. This non-profit project is an Open Educational Resource (OER) and supports collaboration among a community of content developers to serve students and teachers worldwide.

- [Merlot](#) - Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching is a leading edge, user-centered, searchable collection of online learning materials.
- [The Orange Grove](#) - The Orange Grove is a project of the Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC). The Consortium is a member service organization that supports advanced and proven technologies to enhance and deliver instruction.



New Online Government Course Debuts in August

The Dallas TeleLearning production team, working with Cedar Valley College faculty member David McCoy, has been hard at work creating new online courses for U.S. & Texas Government (GOVT 2301, GOVT 2302). There will be 22 new lessons for the U.S. Government course and eight new lessons for Texas Government-- ready for use by DCCCD faculty

in Fall 2010.

Look for new features like video mini-documentaries (10 minutes), on topics such as Presidential Power, Voter Turnout, Gerrymandering, and Katrina: A Failure of Federalism? We covered the map to bring you some of the best political science experts including Thomas Patterson (Harvard), Carol Swain (Vanderbilt Law School), and James Thurber (American University) discussing a variety of lesson topics in a Virtual Roundtable. Also look for all-new interactive activities, each designed to engage and challenge students. If you are interested in using the new government courses for the Fall 2010 semester, contact The FAST TEAM at 972-669-6426.

Take a look at these clips that examine the Constitution, the Legislature, the governor's office, Texas judiciary, interest groups, political parties, and Texas political culture. Also see profiles, where students are given an inside look at the workings of the Texas Legislature, through the eyes of Sen. Judith Zaffarini (Laredo) and Rep. Rafael Anchia (Dallas).



[Take a sneak peek at TX Government](#)



[Take a sneak peek at U.S. Government](#)

New eCampus Manager Joins LeCroy Team

After only 4 months on the job, Daniel Luciani, the new head-of eCampus-- that mega-course management system we call Blackboard (Bb)-- has been sufficiently introduced to the DCCCD eCampus system. In those few months, Luciani has very quickly learned how to manage thousands of enrollments, log-ins and faculty requests. He comes to us with more than 30 years in the instructional technology industry, working primarily in energy, outsourcing, retail and electronic companies. Luciani is also a former missionary pastor and chaplain, which will come in handy when our many students are taking tests online at one time-- prayers are always welcomed during exam weeks.

As he prepares his staff and all the DCCCD faculty for summer classes, he says, one of the biggest challenges will be looking at how the new Bb features will impact staff, faculty and students. Luciani says, "the challenge is balancing the new features and functionality of new releases with the impact it has on everyone. This means having to manage expectations and an environment that is constantly changing. I have spent the last few months getting an understanding of some of the issues and look forward to working with the DL representatives and faculty to improve the overall support for our students and faculty."



Blackboard

Faculty Tips for a Smooth Transition with eCampus

Upcoming Events in eCampus

- New maintenance release SP3 will correct many of the known issues with Release 9. Scheduled for early summer.
- Blackboard 9.1 was released in early April and is currently being tested. Initial feedback has been good. In addition to fixing problems with 9.0, the new functionality of the product looks promising and will allow us to move to 'cloud computing' within eCampus. Scheduled for late summer pending training and testing.

How to Prepare for the New Semester

- Request your new course shell as soon as possible (Have your division set up your course in eCampus)
- Once your course is on eCampus, submit your copy request
Course copy requests should be submitted two weeks prior to the start of a new semester

Know who your key contacts are

- Division contact
- Distance Learning contact
- Faculty Help Desk (972-669-6460 or helpdesk@dcccd.edu)

Tips for a Smooth Transition

- Creation of templates will help expedite course creation from one semester to the next. Contact your Distance Learning representative to learn more.
- Please remind students not to bookmark eCampus links from one semester to the next.
- Do not wait until the beginning of the semester to request a course copy. They should be completed PRIOR to the semester start date. Waiting will result in the delay of your course availability.

[Check here to print a copy of these Faculty Tips...](#)



Yep, There's an App for That: Textbook Publishers Embrace iPad Apps for Education

By Barb Dybwad, Mashable

Textbook publishers have already enlisted the third-party services of developers to build adaptations of textbooks for the iPad, the Wall Street Journal reports. McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin, Pearson and Kaplan have struck deals with iPhone and iPod touch developers ScrollMotion Inc. to build applications for the iPad that bring test preparation, study guides and new types of instructional materials.

Read the article [here](#).



Stay the Course: Online Government

(A series featuring Q & A with online DCCCD instructors)

By Lauren Mang

Government professor Noreen Warwick may have a penchant for politics, but what about her students? The Richland College online instructor shares her secrets for building students' confidence and understanding of the often tumultuous and dynamic political world.

[Read more here](#).

The LeCroy Center Teams with Richland College to Make Online English Accessible to All

To help faculty provide a more universally-designed online course, the LeCroy Center has



been working with faculty to enhance their courses for accessibility to all students, including those with disabilities. The DCCCD and the LeCroy Center are reviewing courses and applying an accessibility checklist that has been designed by the FAST Team, with input from Audra Barrett, Director of Distance Learning at Richland College. Her husband, Dr. John Barrett, English Faculty (RLC), has volunteered to have his course reviewed and apply the resulting recommendations. His input has already helped to develop a new way to organize the content in a manner that is more user-friendly and organized for students. This concept is based on his training in peer verification.

Working together, the end result will be a course that is not only valued for the content but for the ease in which the content is accessible by students online. Currently, Dr. Barrett is including summaries for videos, alt tags to identify images on a page for persons who are blind, embedding content reader software, reviewing content layout to make the course more usable by assistive technology, and organizing audio files of content that can be downloaded to personal audio players. All of these enhancements help provide for a more versatile course for today's versatile student.

For more information on this project, contact [David Woods](#), 972-669-6661.

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