About Us

The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology supports faculty and assists in providing students with online learning opportunities through distance learning, as well as a wide array of instructional technologies that empower the design and development of learning environments and contribute to student success.

We partner with and support faculty in the creation, design and delivery of high-quality distributed learning by supporting UNT Dallas faculty in the design and implementation of instructional technologies for classroom, online and hybrid courses and work with the administration, IT and faculty to choose and implement best practices for instructional technologies to enhance and extend the learning environment in and beyond the classroom, as well as assist in the marketing of online/hybrid courses.

Our Mission

Our primary mission is to provide vision, leadership, and support in the appropriate use of educational technology and media for teaching and learning and in the development and continuation of quality distance education programs.

The office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies (DLIT) is pleased to announce our Spring 2016 event series. A set list of workshops, webinars, training sessions and learning communities have been designed to engage student-centered, engaged pedagogical practices to distance learning at UNTD. Each month, we’ll tackle a different theme. Join us as we engage with and amplify these key issues in the classroom and beyond. We hope you will join us! DLIT offers workshops year round to guide faculty in the use of technologies as well as classroom and/or computer-mediated pedagogical techniques to support online, blended, and web-enhanced learner-centered instruction.

Scheduled workshops for the 16SP semester are listed below. Many of our technology workshops focus on the use of Blackboard Learn to support instruction. All faculty, full-time and part-time, are welcome to attend. Please let us know if you wish to attend for planning purposes.

To request a workshop, submit a consultation request to UNTDDistance@unt.edu

Blackboard Jumpstart Workshops

In this fast paced, focused session you will learn the critical skills about using Blackboard, particularly if you are using it for the first time and need to get your course ready quickly. Topics will include course management, content organization, basic communication, and using the grade center. The sessions for the 2016 Spring semester will be BEFORE the semester begins, as we know that is just the time faculty members might need assistance in preparing their Blackboard courses, especially those who are new to Blackboard. Please join us for any of the following four workshops:

- Thursday, January 14 (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM) or (2:00 PM – 4:00 PM), DAL 1, Rm 336
- Wednesday, January 20 (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM) or (2:00 PM – 4:00 PM), DAL 1, Rm 336

Blackboard Open Labs

Whether you’re just starting work on your summer or fall course or putting on those finishing touches in your spring courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there’s no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-whenever-you-can event.

- Tuesdays between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM in DAL1, Rm 336 the following dates: January 26, February 2 and 16, and, April 5 and 19.

Contact Us!

During the fall and spring semesters, we invite faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don’t forget to register for the workshops and sessions!

Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events UNTDDistance@unt.edu

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Hybrid/Online Teaching
Whether you are a veteran or have just had that scary conversation with your Dean, join us as we discuss the wonders, joys and pitfalls of online and hybrid teaching. Cynthia Johnson, our Instructional Design Coordinator, will guide this group of faculty as they grow and learn from the blessings and curses of teaching in an online environment.
Wednesday, February 10 (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Newbies
Is this your first year teaching a Distance Learning course at UNT Dallas? Orientation was great but this is “the rest of the story” - addressing questions and concerns. Join Arturo, Director of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology, to discuss and learn more about teaching an eLearning course.
Tuesday, February 16 (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Overview of UNT Dallas’ Online Quality Assurance Checklist
The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies is responsible for reviewing all distance learning (online and hybrid) courses based on the quality standards. With University of North Texas Dallas increase of quality assurance standards for the Spring 2016 semester, our office will review the new standards in detail in hopes of assisting faculty develop a quality online course.
Topics to be discussed during this session include:
1. Review of UNTD’s online quality standards adopted for Spring 2016
2. Review of online content in the UNTD Faculty Example Template course shell that meets our checklist instrument.
Presented by Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator
Friday, January 15 (9:00 AM - 10:00 AM or 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)
Founders Hall, Rm 127 or Online

Experiential Learning: Overcoming Barriers & Elevating the Online Learning Experience
Creating an online course in which undergraduate students learn and discuss real world issues while becoming active citizens must contain a fine balance of passion and professionalism. A combination of formative and summative assessments can create a stimulating learning environment. However, in some professions, this is not enough to equip them for the work force and remain competitive in their industry. During this workshop, we will discuss how to implement summative assessments for experiential learning in the online environment and candidly discuss some of the challenges students and instructors face with the learning process. Online teaching strategies will focus on motivating students, enhancing learning, and providing best practices to facilitate change in students’ perceptions of experiential learning.
Presented by Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator
Wednesday, February 17 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Teaching Online with Rubrics: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
In this workshop, the purpose and general structure of rubrics will be explained and how they can benefit learning and teaching if used as an effective grading tool. Discussion on what instructors inadvertently do to limit the effectiveness of rubrics will also be reviewed. Strategies for using rubrics and a list of valuable websites containing rubric templates will be included in the discussion.
Presented by Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator
Wednesday, March 2 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM), DAL1, Rm 336

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Admin / Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Syeda Jasmim, Sociology</td>
<td>Arturo Cole, Director</td>
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<td>Dr. Mark Stanley, Social Science</td>
<td>Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator</td>
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<td>Dr. Marco Shappick, Teacher Education</td>
<td>Brian Miller, Digital Media Instructional Designer</td>
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<td>Dr. Constance Lacy, Counseling &amp; HSMIL</td>
<td>Katrina Cornely, Academic Scheduling</td>
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All of the meetings for this semester will be held on the 4th Tuesday of every month starting in February. Agendas, meeting documents, and web links are posted to the DLIT website for archival purposes.
Tuesdays, February 23, March 22 & April 26 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127
energy trying to learn complex ideas. In this webinar, you will understand the rules of simplicity by using RULES in designing and delivering content. Topics covered:
- Why do most content stay complex and are hard to understand and learn?
- What are case studies showing improvement in performance using simple rules?
- How do you methodically simplify your content and build rules for easy use?
- What are the six types of rules and where do they apply?
- View examples of simple rules-based learning with technical, scientific, process and compliance content

Thursday, March 31, 2016 @ 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Grading Cafe
Gearing up for Mid-term or Finals grading? Have trouble setting up your Grade Center on Blackboard? Don’t know how to create and manage grade center columns? Please join us for our open “Grading Cafe.” Staff from the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology will be glad to assist you on how to organize your Full Grade Center.

Mid-Term:
What You Need to Know About the Grade Center
Presenter: Dr. Julia VanderMolen, Davenport University
The Blackboard Grade Center allows instructors to record, calculate and share grades with students through their Blackboard course. This webinar will show instructors the basics of recording and sharing grades and comments with students through the Grade Center. Come to this café and also learn some tips and tricks for managing grades.
Tuesday, March 1 (2:00 PM – 4:00 PM), Dal1, Rm 336

Finals:
Tuesday, April 26 (2:00 PM – 4:00 PM), Dal1, Rm 336
Free tea and coffee, snacks, and a chance to break out of your office for a couple of hours!

eLearning Faculty Learning Communities
We will continue this semester with our three established faculty learning communities relating to eLearning. You’re welcome to join any of these teams as each FLC grows at its own pace and embrace a unique topic. The FLCs will meet regularly, either in person or virtually, but input from FLC members will help determine the frequency and format for meetings, the duration, and the goals and outcomes—including any projects to be carried out—for each FLC. We are very excited to provide such rich opportunities for community building, interdisciplinary collaboration, and explorations of online teaching and learning!

Teaching with Technology
Explore a range of software and web-based tools to enhance teaching and learning. No matter if you are teaching a fully online, a hybrid, or on-ground sessions join Brian Miller, our Digital Media Instructional Designer, to and learn how you can incorporate educational technologies as a means to enliven the classroom and promote active learning experiences.
Wednesday, February 3 (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Unlocking The Grade Center
Does the grade center in Blackboard give you nightmares? This workshop will help you understand how the grade center works in Blackboard. This workshop will show you the following features:
1. Navigating the Course Layout
2. Creating Course Content
3. Using Communication Tools
4. Editing the Course Menu
Presented by Brian Miller, Digital Media Instructional Designer
Wednesday, February 4 (2:30 PM—4:00 PM), DAL1, Rm 336

Test Creation Made Simple
Do you currently teach online course and find test creation to be tedious and difficult? This hands-on workshop will help you understand the basics of test and survey creation in Blackboard LEARN in addition to teaching you how to create pools for use with creating tests.
This workshop will look at how to create pools, surveys and/or tests. We will review:
1. How to create pools, surveys and/or tests
2. How to upload pools, surveys, and/or tests into Blackboard LEARN
3. Best practices for using Tests in Blackboard LEARN
4. Using Tests as teaching tools (i.e. feedback)
Presented by Brian Miller, Digital Media Instructional Designer
Wednesday, February 24 (10:00 AM—11:30 AM), DAL1, Rm 336
This faculty training program will bring best practices and evolved online pedagogy training to you in a concise and effective series. Each session will consist of a 60 min *pre-recorded* webinar plus 90 min hands-on practice that have been designed for educators and will be led by our staff members. These sessions are designed to share innovative practices — content that is applicable to educators of all disciplines.

**BITS #1: Top 10 Things You Didn’t Know Learn 9.1 Could do**

Presenter: Lisa Capan, Sr. Customer Success Advocate, Blackboard, Inc.

Equipped with more learning alternatives than ever before, today’s students are placing unprecedented demands on faculty and educators to deliver on the expectation of a more personalized, engaged, and flexible educational experience. As a result, educators like yourself must address a number of critical issues that sit at the heart of keeping students engaged in this ever-shifting landscape. This session will focus on workflows and features that you can leverage TODAY in Blackboard Learn.

*Thursday, January 21 (1:00 PM – 3:00 PM), Dal1, Rm 336*

**BITS #2 - The Ins and Outs of Writing Effective Discussion Questions**

Presenter: Cheryl Cyrus, Blackboard Consulting

Discussions are an integral part of building community online, but how do you write questions that build engagement and don’t result in a series of “me too” responses. In this webinar, you’ll learn a few tricks for writing effective discussion questions and building authentic interaction online.

*Tuesday, February 23 (2:00 PM — 4:00 PM), DAL1, Rm 336*

**BITS #3 - Beginnings, Middles and Ends: Motivating and Engaging Your Online Students**

Presenter: Paul Beaudoin, Fitchburg State University

Finding ways to motivate and engage the online learner is one of the biggest challenges facing online education. Using examples from Dr. Beaudoin’s award-winning classes, “Beginnings, Middles, and Ends” will offer several practical strategies to motivate and engage your online students at any grade level, all semester, so that they stay in class and successfully reach the finish line.

*Tuesday, March 22 (2:00 PM — 4:00 PM), DAL1, Rm 336*

**BITS #4 - Are You Bored with Discussion Boards? Collaborative Strategies in Blended and Online Courses**

Presenter: Anna Reese, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide

While collaboration is encouraged in blended and online courses, many instructional designers and online instructors find the discussion board to be too artificial and shallow to be successful and engaging. In this session you will see specific examples of successful collaborative activities that go beyond the traditional discussion board question.

*Tuesday, April 12 (2:00 PM — 4:00 PM), DAL1, Rm 336*

Being thrust into managerial roles with little to no preparation. A lack of innovative options for delivering training to this population seems to keep us stuck force-fitting traditional solutions rather than evolving our approach.

Please join University of California, Irvine Extension in welcoming 20-year veteran of e-learning and product development for fast-growing organizations, Mary Keenan, in discussing how to rethink the way we deliver learning to the dominant and most analyzed population in recent history.

*Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127*

**Accelerating Experience-Based Learning for High-Performance**

Presenter: Ray Jimenez, Ph.D., Architect of TrainingMagNetwork.com, Chief Learning Officer of Vignettes Learning

Experts, scientists and learning specialists agree that experience is one of the better ways to help learners learn. The more experience the learner and worker has, the more they perform on the job. In typical learning environments, “experience learning” is not encouraged. Consequently, learners try hard to learn the theory and yet forget them as soon as they finish the courses.

To prevent this from happening, experience learning incorporates experience during and after the learning process – and is continuously encouraged on the job.

Topics covered:
- What scientific studies demonstrate that experience-learning is far more effective than other methods?
- What are the key elements of experience-learning – its design, methods, platforms, and culture?
- How do you use problem-solving, analytical studies, trouble-shooting, action-research, peer-to-peer learning to strengthen experience-learning?

*Thursday, February 18, 2016 @ 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127*

**Flip Instruction and Create a Student-Centered Classroom**


Lecture alone is ineffective whether it is live or online. So, the challenge with the flipped classroom model is to engage students around the content in a dynamic way. Then, class time can be used to create learning communities where students communicate, collaborate and create! Given the myriad tools at our fingertips, this is becoming easier to do!

*Thursday, February 25, 2016 @ 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127*

**10 Educational Apps New Teachers Need Now**

Presented by Shannon Holden, edtech Adjunct Instructor

The explosion of cool educational apps continues! Companies, students, and administrators realize the power they hold for teaching, learning, gaming, and categorizing information. Join edtech adjunct instructor Shannon Holden as he lists his favorite educational apps for 2016.

*Tuesday, March 8, 2016 @ 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127*

**Creating Simple Rules-Based Learning from Complex, Technical and Compliance Courses**

Presenter: Ray Jimenez, Ph.D., Architect of TrainingMagNetwork.com, Chief Learning Officer of Vignettes Learning

Simplifying learning content cuts learning curves and speeds up performance on the job. However, most complex, technical and compliance learning content remain to be inaccessible for learners to use and learn from. Consequently, learners grow frustrated and waste their time and
The Future of Learning: Where Should We Focus This Year?

Presenter: Nick Floro, CEO/Learning Architect, Sealworks Interactive Studios.
Charity Bryan, Associate Professor and Program Director for Online Education, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia.

The needs of today’s organizations—and the organizations of tomorrow—are changing, but our industry’s existing practices are falling behind. We need to examine the relevant trends to evolve our learning and performance content and ecosystems for the future. In this session, you’ll explore the top five trends affecting the learning and performance industry, and gain fresh perspectives on how to enhance your learning and engage your audiences. You’ll see practical examples that will inspire you, your team, and your learners; learn about resources and links to get you started; and examine what the trends mean to you and your organization. You’ll leave this session with dozens of ideas to reboot your brain with fresh perspectives on how to enhance your learning and engage your audiences.

This Best of Learning Solutions Webinar, will explore the top five trends affecting the learning and performance industry and outline a plan to get started in the process of evolving. Participants will leave this session with dozens of ideas to reboot their brains with fresh perspectives on how to enhance their learning and engage their audiences.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Issues and Trends in Edtech in 2016

Presenters: Jeff Borden, Associate Vice President for Teaching and Learning Innovation, Saint Leo University, Tanya Joosten, Director of E-Learning Research and Development, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Mark Leuba, Competency Based Education Facilitator, IMS Global Learning Consortium.

In 2015, trends in edtech included more emphasis on open educational resources, less hype around data analytics, and a nail in the MOOC coffin. Informal and formal blended learning models, including competency-based education, continued to grow. Adaptive learning emerged as a compelling business model for edtech companies and a strategy for increasing student success and completion at institutions. IoT, the Internet of Things made its way into lexicon of higher education, despite no real strategies for managing IoT in higher ed. What edtech trends and issues will impact higher education in 2016? Will the higher education reauthorization act finally get passed? What are the implications for the growth of competency-based education and what is the potential it could hinder the development of adaptive and personalized learning programs? Will OER continue to gain traction as resources become easier to utilize? Will accessibility finally get the attention it requires?

Join us along with WCET’s visionaries and leaders for a discussion of what edtech trends and issues are on the horizon. What should we be thinking about as we kick-off the 2016 academic year? What emerging issues are we seeing at UNT Dallas?

Thursday, January 21, 2016 @ 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Millennials, E-learning, And The Evolving Workplace

Presenter: Mary Keenan Asher, Vice President, Product Development, Retention Education, Inc.

2015 marks the year that the “millennial” became not only the largest generation in the workplace, but the largest living generation. This shift has spurred the release of a multitude of reports on differences in workplace habits, technology use and buying power of what appears to be a very hands-on, connected, and collaborative population. Simultaneously, we are watching the equally large population of “Baby Boomers” retire from business and leadership roles. This confluence of factors is creating a leadership gap in the workplace, resulting in young leaders...
What’s Wrong with Wikipedia? Best Practices for Evaluating Student Sources

Whether it’s a recent Pew Research Center study on student research habits or data from Turnitin’s analysis of the sources that students turn to online, Wikipedia emerges as the top source that students reference. Educators are well aware of the shortcomings of relying on crowd-sourced content for authoritative information, but the meaning of the message appears to be not taking hold for students. In response to this knowledge gap, Turnitin developed a website evaluation rubric for instructors to share with students. In this webcast, we’ll explore the connection between student source choices and the development of research and critical thinking skills. We’ll also discuss the development of the Turnitin website evaluation rubric to help students enhance their competencies in evaluating online sources.

Presenters: Renee Bangerter, Professor of English at Saddleback College, Jason Chu, Senior Education Manager at Turnitin.
Tuesday, February 9 (1:00 PM - 1:30 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Using Web-based Technology for Interactive, Formative Feedback in Online Learning

Teaching and tutoring in an online modality creates challenges to providing high-quality, individualized, formative feedback for student learning. However, course design, interactive tutorials, video feedback, and personalized tutoring provide opportunities for dynamic, multimodal feedback. This session discusses how using technology and proven online pedagogies for interaction and substantive student feedback increases student engagement in online learning.

Presenters: Melody Pickle, Writing Specialist for the Writing Across the Curriculum program at Kaplan University, Ray Huang, Senior Customer Programs Manager at Turnitin.
Thursday, March 3 (10:00 AM - 10:45 AM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

"What’s the Frequency, Kenneth?" Voice Commenting Strategies

How can you be sure that the feedback that you are providing to students is getting heard? Are you looking to better take advantage of using voice commenting to better tune your students into your suggestions for improvement? Join us for a discussion on strategies for best using the voice commenting feature in Turnitin to provide feedback to students that truly resonates.

Presenters: Lisa LaBrake, English teacher, Sweet Home High School in Amherst, NY. Kristin Brabec, Education Manager for Turnitin.
Tuesday, April 5 (11:00 AM - 11:30 AM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Getting to Know canvas Series

The spread of LMSs that institutions actively use in production continues to narrow suggesting a consolidation in the marketplace. Most institutions are standardizing on 6 major LMS platforms: Blackboard Learn 9.1, D2L Brightspace, Instructure Canvas, Moodle, Pearson’s Learning Studio, and Sakai. With a dominant design now generally agreed upon, we believe that 2016 will see even more new takes on what a LMS should be.

Using Images in an Online Course

Presenters: Tara Koger, Educational Technologist, Instructional Development Specialist, Jessica Phillips, Sr. Instructional Designer & Universal Design and Accessibility Coordinator, Maria Scheid, Rights Management Specialist, Program Coordinator, Office of Distance Education and eLearning, Ohio State University
This will be a very informative webinar about using images in an online course. We will talk about how to strategically select images for use in our courses so they have the greatest impact, techniques we can use to ensure we have permission to use images and give proper attributions along with ways we can be sure the images we use meet accessibility standards.

Monday, April 11 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

5 Ways to Personalize Your Next E-Learning Course

Presented by Tim Slade, e-Learning Authoring Tools trainer. Who Should Attend?
Anyone interested in learning how to add personalization features to their next e-learning course.
What Will You Learn?
- How personalization creates more engaging e-learning
- Five simple ways to add personalization features to e-learning

Monday, April 18 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Gamify Your Next E-Learning Course

Presented by Tim Slade, e-Learning Authoring Tools trainer. Who Should Attend?
Anyone interested in learning how to add gamification elements to their next e-learning course.
What Will You Learn?
- What "gamification" really means
- How gamification creates more engaging e-learning
- Simple techniques to gamify an e-learning course

Monday, April 25 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Join us for the following live webinars which will offer the opportunity to learn about a great variety of elearning topics from industry experts without leaving our campus and we’ll be able to submit questions to the presenters during these online presentations. The list of live webinars that we’ll be participating this semester is as follows:

Finding Your Go-To Educational Resources Online

The Internet is a giant infosphere of knowledge, information, strategies, and resources. Which resources are useful, and which are not? It can be overwhelming to a novice teacher – or any teacher for that matter! Join new teacher coach Shannon Holden as he reveals a list of powerful online educational resources all teachers need to bookmark and keep handy for future use.

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 @ 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127
We have been thinking about what UNT Dallas’ next generation learning management system should look like. For the last couple of years there has been rumors around the migration to Canvas, but no decision has been made at all. This is just a proactive effort on familiarizing ourselves with Canvas. Regardless of which tool we ultimately use as online learning environment, our courses will still be pretty much the same: where you share materials and build assessments, host discussions and post news for the class. The future iteration of eLearning at UNT Dallas should have the same functionality it has now, and then some. Join us on Thursdays in April as we learn more about what Canvas could offer us!

Canvas, an LMS and Beyond
Canvas by Instructure will present a 50-minute webinar demonstrating the functionality of its Canvas learning management system. You’ll see why some of the largest and most innovative colleges and universities have made the move to Canvas and never looked back.

Thursday, April 7 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Get to Know Canvas - The Smart and Easy LMS
Join Instructure for a 50-minute webinar demonstrating the functionality of its Canvas learning management system. You’ll see why some of the largest and most innovative colleges and universities have made the smart move to Canvas. You’ll learn… how Canvas’ SpeedGrader makes grading (with rubrics) up to 70% more efficient, how to engage students via integration with modern Web sites and devices, how cloud hosting makes life easier for everyone, and how Canvas’ modern Web interface makes it easy for faculty and students.

Thursday, April 14 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Migrating Your LMS Made Simple
Does the thought of migrating to a new LMS sound like a total and complete nightmare? What if we told you that moving to a new LMS really isn’t that complicated? Because it’s not. But, don’t take our word for it. Attend this webinar and learn how two higher ed institutions - Northwestern University and Richland Community College - recently transitioned to a new learning management system. Faculty from both schools will share firsthand accounts of the evaluation, selection, migration, and adoption process. They also share useful ideas and recommendations for:

- Positioning the new LMS and rolling it out to faculty and students.
- Driving adoption and usage.
- Internal marketing - why it’s important, and what it could look like?
- Setting up the migration process, including setting time and resources expectations.
- Reflecting and measuring performance.

Thursday, April 21 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Making the Change to a New LMS—and Making it Easy
Which is harder? Transitioning to a new learning management system or maintaining an LMS that no longer meets the needs of your institution. Watch this free webcast with David Thomas, director of academic technology at the University of Colorado Denver / CU Online, to find out how evaluating, selecting, and implementing a new LMS can be made easy.

Thursday, April 28 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Myths, Legends and Finding Bigfoot: A faculty member's foray into online teaching
Learn what happens when the director of a public university’s school of kinesiology leads an effort to convert a low-completer program to a totally online program, expecting to support her faculty with resources and guidance, only to realize that “her course” would have to be the first to be converted. It is through her unique experience, serving as both an administrator and faculty member, that Dr. Bryan shaped a viewpoint, and eventually a career direction, that is centered around online teaching and learning. In this webinar, Dr. Bryan debunks myths, shares research and offers her insights and experiences that touch on the most hotly debated issues surrounding online. She discusses in the most practical terms the barriers to online (real and perceived), practical challenges facing faculty and administrators, and lessons learned over the years.

Monday, March 21 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Teaching Competencies for 21st Century Learners
Presenters: John Hoffman, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership, California State University, Fullerton and Ellen Meier, Director, Center for Technology and School Change, Faculty, Dept. of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, Teachers College Columbia University
With technology increasing as a core component of hybrid on-the-ground instruction, traditional faculty may lack the technology and teaching skills needed to be successful with Millennial learners. If your incoming freshman class does not use email to communicate with the institution or faculty, how do you communicate with them? How do you engage students who expect immediate feedback, are constantly multitasking, who use multiple devices daily for school, social and work demands? Learn what researchers at Teachers College are finding about engaging students in STEM courses, the outcome of a national task force that developed a tiered set of competencies for student professionals, and how the redesign of curriculum into a CBE framework is stimulating a conversation about the changing roles of faculty.

Monday, March 28 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Track 3. Stepping Up Your Online Course

Cool Tools for Jazzing Up Your Online Course
Presenters: Marcia Ham, Sr. Instructional Designer & Faculty Development Coordinator, Jessica Phillips, Sr. Instructional Designer & Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, DiAnna Palmer, Instructional Designer, Office of Distance Education and eLearning, Ohio State University
This session will offer a large amount of information on different tools instructors can use to help their online courses stand out from the rest. Fostering student interest and engagement in the course with the content, each other, and you while staying true to web accessibility guidelines was the focus of our conversation.

Monday, April 4 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127
Promoting a Culture of Accessibility for Online Students
Presenters: Kathleen Bastedo, John Raible and Nancy Swenson, Instructional Designers, University of Central Florida
Institutions are at varying stages of implementing accessibility processes from individuals managing reactive accommodations to robust campus-wide initiatives. This facilitated discussion will address what questions to ask at your institution regarding online course accessibility such as: Who is responsible for ensuring the accessibility of online course materials? Instructional designers from the University of Central Florida will share their strategies, challenges, and lessons learned from developing a campus-wide online course accessibility support model and address specific accessibility areas such as: captioning, course content, and testing.
Monday, February 15 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Making Your Courses Accessible for Those With Disabilities
Presenters: Diane Elkins, president and Tanya Seidel, VP, Strategic Development of Artisan E-Learning, a custom e-learning development company
If your courses have audio, what would a deaf or hard of hearing person need to do to access your content. If someone doesn’t have the mobility to use a mouse and could only navigate using a keyboard, could he or she take your course? If a visually impaired person was using a screen reader, would he or she understand what’s happening on screen? Making your courses accessible means designing and building them in a way that anyone can access them. Some organizations do this because they consider it the right thing to do. Others do it because they specifically know they have learners who have accessibility needs. Others do it because they have to comply with laws or guidelines such as Section 508 and WCAG.
In this webinar, you’ll learn what accessibility is and how it affects the design and development of your e-learning courses. Specifically, you’ll learn:
- What is Section 508? WCAG? And who needs to comply with them?
- How do accessibility strategies impact the design of a course?
- What programming considerations are important?
- What additional steps are required to create an accessible course?
- How do different e-learning authoring tools compare in terms of accessibility?
- What tools are needed to test a course’s accessibility?
Monday, February 22 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Unlocking Possibilities: The Latest Research Findings in eLearning
Presenters: Bradley Davis, PhD – University of Texas at Arlington
Brinda McKinney, PhD – Arkansas State University
Karen Manning and Angela Robbins – University of Cincinnati
Hear from four prominent online educators as they share three pieces of the eLearning best-practice puzzle in this webinar.
Learn the latest research findings from four prominent online educators in this session. The presenting faculty are recipients of Faculty Grant Program awards presented annually by Academic Partnerships.
In the webinar, they share 3 pieces of the eLearning best-practice puzzle:
- The Career Ladder: UT Arlington’s Dr. Bradley Davis will discuss his study, “Exploring the Career Paths of Leadership Preparation Program Graduates.”.