Welcome!
In an effort to maximize our support to distance education faculty at UNT Dallas, the office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies is initiating a Weekly email newsletter to provide information on our upcoming events, as well as updates on guidelines and developments and points of interest and news related to online teaching and learning. This newsletter will contain important information designed to acquaint you with the support services and resources available to you.

Our focus is on you, your success and your students’ success!
Please give us your feedback and suggestions for how we can improve our communication channel with you, the faculty!

Meet ‘n Greet our Digital Media Instructional Designer!
Instructional technology is about pedagogy, about building community, about collaboration and helping each other imagine and realize teaching and learning goals with the assistance of technology. One of our main goals in the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology is to enhance the teaching and learning process with the use of technology, so it’s with great pleasure and excitement that we introduce and welcome Mr. Brian Miller, our new Digital Media Instructional Designer. Please join us in welcoming Brian to the UNT Dallas family, drop by his office and say hi. Meet, greet, and start the conversation!
Wednesday, Aug 26 (office hours), Dal 2, Rm 125

BITS - Blackboard Innovative Teaching Series
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. And we’re starting this series next week with:

BITS #1 - How to Engage Students from the Start
Presentation: Miles McGeehan, Bozeman School District
Discussion boards, blogs, and wikis are promising tools for instructors to facilitate dynamic communication and collaboration activities to enhance any curriculum. However, we've all witnessed the use of these tools fall flat within instructional settings. This session will share strategies and examples modeling how to create robust and engaging activities right from the start. Please note that there’s a 15 seat capacity for this event.

Aug 27 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336
Click here to register for this event.

DLAC Meetings
The Distance Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) was created at the end of 2014, as a cross-functional team focused on providing guidance in the formulation of guidelines and strategies regarding resource allocation and quality accountability for online instructional excellence, as well as improving the overall quality of distance learning at UNT Dallas.

The DLAC group is involved in providing leadership in a number of key areas, including development of appropriate guidelines for online learning as well as research into best practices and faculty/student perceptions of online learning.

The advisory council is currently comprised, for the 2015-2016 academic year, by faculty members and UNT Dallas’ staff with the following appointees:

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Admin / Staff</th>
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<td>Online Faculty</td>
<td>Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dr. Syeda Jesmin, 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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<tr>
<td>• Dr. Marco Shappek, Teacher Education</td>
<td>• Brian Miller, Digital Media Instructional Designer</td>
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<td>• Dr. Constance Lacy, Counseling &amp; HSML</td>
<td>• Katrina Cornish, Academic Scheduling</td>
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<td>• Dr. Banu Goktan Bilhan, Business (Pending)</td>
<td>• Enrollment Services:</td>
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<td>• Ms. Pamela Harris, Languages &amp; Communication</td>
<td>• Alunda Joseph, Director of Graduate Admissions</td>
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<td>• Dean representative:</td>
<td>• Brenda Robertson, Head Librarian</td>
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<td>• Dr. Glenda Balas</td>
<td>• Steven Arenz, ITSS</td>
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<td>• Faculty Senate liaison:</td>
<td>• Tanisha Bell, Advising &amp; Student Support</td>
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<td>• Dr. Larry Terry, President</td>
<td>• Students Affairs:</td>
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<td>• Cynthia Suarez, Disability Support Services</td>
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<td>• Arthur Lumzy, Experiential Learning</td>
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If you’re part of this group we’ll have our first meeting for the Fall 2015 semester on Thursday, August 27th at 10:00 am in DAL 2, Rm 209 or 210. If unable to come to campus, you can web conference in using UNT Dallas’ Skype for Business cloud-based technology.

The primary objective for this meeting is to introduce our new members, review the purpose of the committee and to begin work on the guidelines and criteria for our “Excellence in Online Teaching” awards. Once again, thank you for accepting this appointment and we greatly appreciate your humbleness to assist us in serving our ever growing distance learning student population.

Articles
(Click the images to read the articles)
More

**SEP 02**  Distance Learning Information Table (For Students and Staff)
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Dal2, Atrium

**SEP 02**  Blackboard Basics Workshop (For Students)
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336

**SEP 03**  eFLC: Newbies
2:00 PM—3:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 209 or 210

**SEP 08**  Accept nominations for the Excellence in Online Teaching Awards - Online

**SEP 09**  Blackboard Open Lab
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336

**SEP 09**  Making Schools a Game Worth Playing: Digital Games in the Classroom
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 122 or virtually

**SEP 10**  Evolving Learning for the New Digital Era
12:00 PM—1:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 209 or 210

**SEP 10**  eFLC: Teaching with Technology
2:00 PM—3:00 PM
SEP 08  Meetup 1 – Let’s do something!
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 2, Rm 122

SEP 16  Blackboard Basics
Workshop (For Students)
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336

* Thank you to everyone that attended our Blackboard Jumpstart Workshops this week!

* We had a PACKED house today during the last Fall 2015 NSO session!

Characteristics of 21st Century Learners:
- Broad, deep understanding of the world
- Makes interdisciplinary connections
- Thinks creatively and critically
- Communicates and collaborates with others
- Creates, evaluates, and utilizes info
- Career-ready and prepared for life

Students MUST be prepared for the future.

Contact Us!
The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies invites 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 our workshops and sessions!
Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

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Phone: 972-338-5580
Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu

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