Finalists for the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards Announced
The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional is proud to announce the following finalists for the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards, which promote superior online teaching, provide models of excellence and innovation for fellow faculty, and encourage all faculty to continue to improve and advance their online teaching pedagogy and their use of instructional technology in support of the teaching and learning process at UNT Dallas. The award recipients will later be announced as the Review Sub-Committee is currently reviewing the letters and supported documentation submitted by the nominees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Innovative Teaching with Technology Award Finalists:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Outstanding Online Course Award Finalists:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>(In Alphabetical Order)</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Dr. Donna Hamilton</td>
<td>a) Dr. Lynda Folts</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>School of Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life &amp; Health Sciences Department</td>
<td>Life &amp; Health Sciences Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course: BIOL 1132: Environmental Science</td>
<td>Course: BIOL 1082: Biology for Educators</td>
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<td>Semester: Fall 2014 (Online)</td>
<td>Spring 2015 (Online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Dr. Marco Shappeck and Dr. Katie Welch</td>
<td>b) Dr. Amy McCortney</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Education</td>
<td>School of Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Education &amp; Administration</td>
<td>Counseling and Human Development Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Course: COUN 5765: Appraisal in Counseling</td>
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<td>Courses:</td>
<td>Summer 2015 (Online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 2050: The Language of Now</td>
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<td>LING 3060: Principals of Language Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>LING 4030: Acquisition of English as a Second Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2015 (Hybrid)</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Prof. Lea Young</td>
<td>c) Dr. Joy Patton</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>School of Human Services</td>
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<td>Languages &amp; Communication Department</td>
<td>Counseling and Human Development Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course: UGRW 1200: Tutorial Option in Developmental Writing</td>
<td>Course: HSML 4200: Grant Proposal Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2015 (Traditional)</td>
<td>Spring 2015 (Online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Dr. Syeda Jesmin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course: SOCI 3330: Social Stratification</td>
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<td>Spring 2015 (Online)</td>
<td>Spring 2015 (Online)</td>
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</table>

Congratulations to this year’s finalists!
Interestingly enough, distance education dates back to the 19th century and the advent of the postal service. With the fairly recent arrival of computers and the internet, distance education quickly evolved into online education. Now, accredited online college degree programs have been around for almost an entire generation.

But only recently is online learning truly becoming more mainstream, thanks to technology advances, lifestyle demands and, most importantly, the expansion of quality online education offerings.

Online course offerings provided by UNTD have grown tremendously in the last couple years, and went from having virtually (no pun intended) no online courses at all to 162 different courses in less than 2 years. UNTD started offering online classes in the Spring of 2014 and for the Spring semester of this year, our Distance Learning offerings include 221 sections of 162 fully or partially online courses.

This represents an increase of 53% in number of courses and a 63% increase in total number of sections being offered compared to the spring semester of last year.

This growth is an example of our university's commitment to online learning and online student success.
The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies, a division of Academic Affairs, is responsible for coordinating the design and development of all e-Learning course offerings that provide high quality hybrid and online learning experiences for students. This semester the office is working alongside with 92 different instructors that are currently teaching hybrid/blended and/or fully online courses and work diligently in order for the courses to meet our quality standards for online teaching and learning.

This represents an increase of 44% more instructors compared to the numbers of spring semester of last year in the number of faculty involved in Distance Learning at UNT Dallas.
FREE ON-CAMPUS ACCESS!
20 Minute Mentor Commons has provided a listing of programs with links and descriptions:

Here are some programs which might prove interesting and helpful from 20 Minute Mentor Commons (you may view information on all 4 programs below under "4 Programs for Start of the Semester).

10 Ways to Engage Your Students on the First Day of Class

What to Teach When There Isn’t Time to Teach Everything

Managing the Adjunct Pool for Consistent Learning Outcome

A Good Start: Helping First-year Students Acclimate to College

See their complete catalog/programs:

Invite - 20 Minute Mentor Commons
20 Minute Mentor Commons Programs
Start of the Semester

Magna Commons Programs
Start of the Semester
Featured Seminar

---COMING NEXT WEEK!

Video Captioning Features, Costs, Good Practices, and How Captioning Benefits All Students
[Brown Bag Lunch Series. Track: Online Usability and Accessibility]

In February 2015, the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) filed suit against Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology for alleged violations of the ADA and Section 504 by failing to provide adequate closed captioning for online video resources. The U.S. Department of Justice is handling the case. Higher education institutions must be in compliance with federal accessibility laws but their ability to do so is challenged by a number of factors, including leadership, staff resources,
Hybrid/Online Teaching [eFLC]
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
Register here.

Millennials, E-learning, And The Evolving Workplace
[Live Webinar]
2015 marks the year that the “millennial” became not only the largest generation in the workforce, 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 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 re-think the way we deliver learning to the dominant and most analyzed population in recent history.
Presenter: Mary Keenan, Asher, Vice President, Product Development, Retention Education, Inc.
Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127
Register here.

Articles

(Click the images to read the articles)

Ready to Flip: Three Ways to Hold Students Accountable for Pre-Class Work
By Barbi Honeycutt, PhD

One of the most frequent questions faculty ask about the flipped classroom model is: “How do you encourage students to actually do the pre-class work and come to class prepared?”

This is not really a new question for educators. We’ve always assigned some type of homework, and there have always been students who do not come to class ready to learn. However, the flipped classroom conversation has launched this question straight to the top of the list of challenges faculty face when implementing this model in their classrooms. By design, the flipped model places more emphasis on the importance of homework or pre-class work to ensure that in-person class time is effective, allowing the instructor and the students to explore higher levels of application and analysis together. If students are unprepared, it leads to frustration, stress, and anxiety for everyone.

Research: Game-Based Learning Can Help Nontraditional Student
By Dian Schaffhauser

Game-based learning should just be another tool in the belt, as far as educators in higher ed think, particularly useful for "learning moments" that can help students succeed, according to new research from Muzzy Lane. Likewise, game-based learning is no good if it's pricey and complex to develop; it needs to be inexpensive and "authorable" by the faculty members themselves. And don't forget, students say, to make the games mobile so they work on the same devices the students like to use.

Read more.
### Upcoming Events

**FEB 15**
- **Promoting a Culture of Accessibility for Online Students**
  - (12:00 PM)
  - Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 16**
- **Blackboard Open Lab**
  - (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)
  - DAL1, Rm 336
- **Newbies [eFLC]**
  - (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)
  - Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 17**
- **Experiential Learning: Overcoming Barriers & Elevating the Online Learning Experience**
  - (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)
  - Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 18**
- **Accelerating Experience-Based Learning for High-Performance**
  - (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)
  - Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 22**
- **Making Your Courses Accessible for Those With Disabilities**
  - (12:00 PM)
  - Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 23**
- **DLAC Meeting**
  - (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)
  - Founders Hall, Rm 127
- **BITs #2 - The Ins and Outs of Writing Effective Discussion Questions**
  - (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)
  - DAL1, Rm 336

**FEB 24**
- **Test Creation Made Simple**
  - (10:00 AM—11:30 AM)
  - DAL1, Rm 336

**FEB 25**
- **Flip Instruction and Create a Student-Centered Classroom**
  - (3:00 PM - 4:00 PM)
  - Founders Hall, Rm 124

Register to any of our February events [here](#).

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### 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:

- **Web:** [http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit](http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit)
- **Phone:** 972-338-5580
- **Email:** [UNTDDistance@unt.edu](mailto:UNTDDistance@unt.edu)

To unsubscribe:

If you would like to be removed from this list please [click here](#).

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Arturo Cole, M.S.