

Teaching Learning Center

The Teaching Learning Center (TLC) nurtures instructional design, critical thinking, and technology skills for faculty at Cedar Valley College. The TLC provides assistance in instructional design and technology in a supportive environment. It also provides a forum for informal faculty discussion.

Another View of Online Courses

What characterizes a “good” online course? How do instructors and administrators evaluate asynchronous teaching without making it “a thing apart?”

Such questions were recurrent themes during the March Innovations 2006 conference.

In that context, Jon Larson, Janet Hubbs, and Richard Strada shared design and assessment strategies from Ocean County College (NJ).

Presenters explained how they used their own distance learning guides, World Wide Web resources, and WebCT/Blackboard exemplar courses to develop course criteria. Concurrently, they developed a module for training evaluators and integrated distance learning assessment with classroom evaluation modes. A Web page, *Faculty Success Resources: Assessing*, links to pertinent sources.

A class observation form summarizes Ocean County’s online course criteria:

Course Content: accessible, adequate, aligned to course objectives, coherent, engaging, learner-centered, linked to supporting resources

Teaching Strategies: clear unit objectives, adequate teaching/learning tools to reach objectives, unit linkages, relevant assignments, adequate student feedback and assessment

Student Interaction: engagement with course materials and other students through student tools such as discussion boards, chats, projects, and presentations; engagement with professor; clear evidence of a collaborative learning community

Course Design: suited to course objectives, easily navigable, aided by platform technology, designed to promote regular feedback to students,

Ocean County Recommends

Distance Education at a Glance (13 training guides)

<http://www.uidaho.edu/eo/distglan.html>

Measuring Student Perceptions in Web-Based Courses: A Standards-Based Approach

<http://www.westga.edu/%7Edistance/ojdlawinter74/jurczyk74.htm>

Assessing Student Learning in Community Colleges

http://online.bakersfieldcollege.edu/courseassessment/Section_2_Background/Section2_2WhatAssessment.htm

planned with visual harmony and aesthetic appeal

At Ocean County College, observing the class online is the first step of a process that includes student course and faculty surveys, student learning assessment, and course/program review cycles.

Watch the TLC
Web Site
and
E-mail
for
Summer TLC
Workshops
and
Special Events

FAQ: What is Vanguard Online?

Vanguard Online will be the third installment of the CVC Teaching Learning Center Vanguard Group, a faculty consortium emphasizing innovative teaching.

The new group will convene in Fall 2006.

Online teaching will focus the discourse as Vanguard Online simulates eCampus course ex-

perience by having all meetings and group exchanges in an online environment.

Faculty can expect registration information via e-mail and additional information at First Day Back in August.

TLC staff members look forward to working with faculty on this new and practical experience.

Vanguard Online

Fall 2006

CEDAR VALLEY COLLEGE TEACHING LEARNING CENTER

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TLC STAFF

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SPRING 2006 HOURS

Monday - Thursday	9:00-6:00
Friday	9:00-3:00

Visit the TLC online
tlccvc.org

“The Culture of ...” Workshops Resonate with TLC Participants

Where will you be this summer?

After a personal trip to Kenya in 2003, TLC Director Tim Xeriland offered “The Culture of Africa.” That midsummer presentation that still holds the attendance record for a single Teaching Learning Center event.

The response set the precedent for what has become a TLC tradition.

Xeriland says, “Enthusiasm for The Culture of ... workshops shows that we

should continue. Clearly, Cedar Valley people have inquiring minds and want to know about other people and places.”

During the 2005–06 academic year, faculty and staff have shared thoughtful first-hand observations - along with pictures, music, and artifacts - from Peru, Russia, Mexico, Guatemala, and Ethiopia. Attendance has been strong at every event.



Ed Dawson: Harpist and Dancer - Veracruz, 1995

Xeriland adds, “We hope everyone will remember “The Culture of ...” as they travel this summer and bring their experiences to the rest of us.

TLC Identifies Online Tech Competencies

As a focus for faculty support and training, the Teaching Learning Center staff has outlined technology competencies for online teaching.

According to TLC faculty assistant Ed Dawson, “We hope to determine where an instructor is on the skills list and to provide help at the appropriate level. That help could be group workshops or one-on-one practice with a specific skill.”

The skills draft groups seventy-eight specific competencies into three categories: Core Competencies (file management, the operating system, peripherals, word processing, e-mail, Internet browsing, and searches); Instructional and Administrative Competencies (electronic gradebook and presentation tools); and eCampus Compe-

tencies (the DCCC portal and Blackboard). Dawson emphasizes approaching the skills in order and feeling comfortable with the first two categories before moving to eCampus training.

TLC director Tim Xeriland has created a short assessment tool “to help determine your level in computer skills often associated with online teaching. By reviewing your skills, you can help us determine how we can help prior to your teaching online.”

The Teaching Learning Center will focus on the first two competency categories while supporting the third and guiding faculty to DCCC eCampus training.

Have
a
splendid,
safe
summer!



Cedar Valley College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGES