



ODELT Newsletter, Fall 2015



Events Planned to Celebrate National Distance Learning Week

National Distance Learning Week (NDLW) is November 9-13, 2015. To celebrate, the Office of Distance Education and Learning Technologies (ODELT) will host several events for both students and faculty.

The week will kick off with an e-Mazing Distance Learning Race contest for students. The race will take students through a series of activities provided by ODELT as well as Career Services, the Counseling Center, Recreational Sports, and Student Activities. More information is available at <https://iol.tamucc.edu/>.

For faculty, free online webinars by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) and Online Learning Consortium will be offered throughout the week. For more information and to register go to <https://www.usdla.org/events/ndlw/ndlw-2016-webinar-schedule-registration/>.

Please join us for the **2nd Annual Outstanding Online Educator Awards Ceremony and reception** to be held **Wednesday, November 11, 2015** from **4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Corpus Christi Hall, room 123.**

The following faculty members will be honored:

Kent Byus - COB
Chuleeporn Changchit - COB
Heather DeGrande - CONHS
Mary Alice Fernandez - COE
Kellie Smith - CLA
Richard Smith - CSE

NDLW Calendar of Events

Nov. 9, 12-1pm - Turning Technologies - Audience Response Solutions training, CCH 123

Nov. 10, 12-1pm – Social Media for Learning workshop, CCH 123 and [WebEx](#)

Nov. 11, 12-1pm – BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) for Active Learning and Lecture Capture workshop, CCH 123

Nov. 11, 4-5pm – 2nd Annual Outstanding Online Educator 2015 Awards Ceremony, CCH 123

Nov. 12, 12-1pm – Accessibility workshop, CCH 123 and [WebEx](#)

Nov. 9-13 – e-Mazing Distance Learning Race for Students ([More info](#))

Nov. 9-13 – US Distance Learning Association Free webinars ([Click to register](#))

Nov. 10-13 – Online Learning Consortium webinars ([More info](#))

For questions about these events, please call 825-2122 or email odelt@tamucc.edu.

Research Shows Improved Scores Using Active Learning

A meta-analysis was conducted by Freeman, Eddy, McDonough, Smith, Okorafor, Jordt, and Wenderoth (2014) of 225 studies comparing college level STEM classes taught using various active approaches such as project, case, or problem-based learning with classes taught via lecture. Findings are that “average examination scores improved by about 6% in active learning sessions, and that students in classes with traditional lecturing were 1.5 times more likely to fail than were students in classes with active learning.” (p. 8410).

In online courses, ODELT recommends designing activities that require students to perform the real tasks of the field. We understand that there are times when the most efficient way for teachers to share their expertise is through lecture. However, this meta-analysis shows that active learning is most effective.

Many questions need to be answered, such as, what is the best mix of didactics and experiential learning for specific content areas and which active learning approach (group work, PBL, CBL, PjBL, online discussions, hands-on experience) works best under what circumstances?

Freeman, S., Eddy, S. L., McDonough, M., Smith, M.K., Okorafor, N. , Jordt, H., and Wenderoth, M. P. (2014) Active learning increases student performance in science, engineering, and mathematics. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 111(23), 8410-8415.

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Islander Mobile App

Did you know that the **official Islander Mobile app** just got a great update? With enhanced functionality and several new services, you can stay better connected to your university than ever before. Here are some of the app highlights:

- Direct access to the campus directory
- Bus time and locations from RTA
- Blackboard access through the Bb Mobile Learn app
- Campus dining options
- Direct access to the Distance Educations website (island online)
- And much more!

It's free, so get it now from www.tamucc.edu/mobile the iOS App Store, or the Google Play Store.

Faculty Transcripts Available

Faculty can request transcripts regarding professional development and other services completed with ODELT. This includes workshops completed, certificate progress, certificates earned, and monetary awards received. Please email odelt@tamucc.edu or call x2122 to request a transcript.

Faculty are still able to track their certificate progress and completion by accessing ODELT's Blackboard course, iTeach_Online, and clicking on the menu item "My Certificate Progress."

If you are not enrolled in iTeach_Online, please see [instructions](#) on how to self-enroll.

Do you have a suggestion for improving Blackboard's features and/or functionality?

Blackboard designers, developers, and administrators are interested in your input. Go to <http://www.blackboard.com/Contact-Us/Suggest-Product-Enhancements.aspx> to correspond with the design team at Blackboard. Your suggestions will be viewed, tallied, and used to prioritize product fixes and enhancements.

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