LeCroy Center
DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

SERVICE STARTS HERE

Quick Bytes

SERVING THE COLLEGES OF DCCCD SINCE 1972

Quick Bytes is a quarterly publication of services provided by the LeCroy Center.   Spring 2015

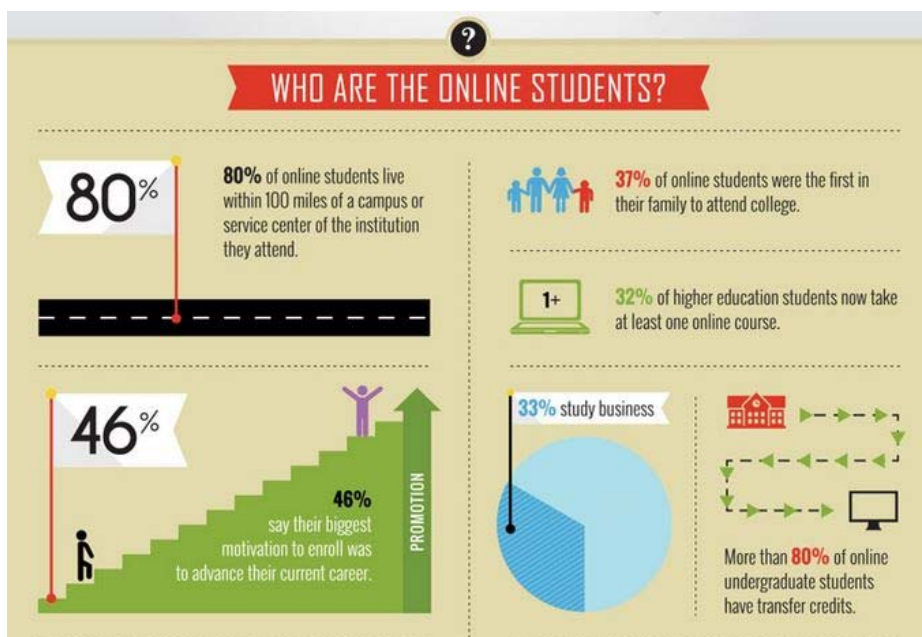## LeCroy Center Provost Going to USDLA Hall of Fame

The LeCroy Center Provost, Dr. Pam Quinn has been chosen by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Board of Directors as one of the recipients of the 2015 USDLA Hall of Fame Award. The Hall of Fame Award is presented to an individual who has contributed significantly to the field of distance learning through leadership, technology, research and teaching.

Dr. Quinn stated that she was very humbled and thrilled to be getting this recognition. According to Dr. Quinn, "I was at the VERY FIRST reception to announce the formation of USDLA at a conference in Anaheim in the mid-80s. The founding meeting, I was there. So this is, indeed, an honor". The award will be presented at the USDLA national conference on April 27, 2015 in St. Louis, Missouri.

On the Horizon

The trend for everything "digital" continues to increase and open the doors of higher education for a variety of new students and non-traditional students with different backgrounds and lifestyles. What does this new student look like? According to collegeatlas.org, the average online student is a 25-29 year old woman, taking classes while working full-time and balancing work, family and school.

WHO ARE THE ONLINE STUDENTS?

80% of online students live within 100 miles of a campus or service center of the institution they attend.

37% of online students were the first in their family to attend college.

1+ **32%** of higher education students now take at least one online course.

46% say their biggest motivation to enroll was to advance their current career.

PROMOTION

33% study business

More than **80%** of online undergraduate students have transfer credits.

The LeCroy Center is taking on this challenge by developing exciting new content that is creative, interactive and intelligently designed to support new non-traditional students. New quality measures are being put into place, like Blackboard Outcomes, online tutoring and resources for faculty to reinforce student learning, retention and graduation.

Outcomes: A New Feature of Blackboard

Measuring learning is a key element to outcomes assessment, and is the foundation for student improvement. This new feature will actively track a student's mastery of online course materials while providing instructors with critical and timely data to improve and increase student learning.

Read more about Blackboard Outcomes…

Student Authentication

Student authentication in online learning has been a hot topic for federal policy makers for several years. How to verify if the student who's registered in an online class, is actually doing the coursework? The LeCroy Center will be closely investigating all current methods in this critical area now that the U.S. Department of Education will be considering student authentication as part of Pell Grant funding criteria in the future.

Read more about student authentication…

Quick Tips to Boost Student Engagement Online

Studies have shown that student satisfaction with their online courses directly correlates to the social presence of the instructor. Students who are engaged in their work are energized by four major goals—success, curiosity, originality, and satisfying relationships. The FAST Team (Faculty Access to Supportive Technology) has tools that can help create instructor presence in the online classroom, while allowing faculty to be creative using media resources and tools.

The FAST Team assists faculty members (full time and adjunct) improve online and hybrid courses with:
- Instructional Design: Applying pedagogy using technology
- Quality Matters: Improving course design to benefit all students
- Media-Rich Content Production: Assisting in creation or usage of media in course development
- IT: Assisting in Blackboard and eCampus implementation
- Ready to Use course templates: Prepared course templates ready for faculty to use
- DCCCD Video Repository: Uploading instructor videos and embedding in eCampus

Contact the FAST Team at fast@dcccd.edu or call us at 972-669-6537.
Read more about Strengthening Student Engagement: What Do Students Want…

Faculty Toolkit Brings Resources to Your Desktop

The FAST Team Faculty Toolkit is a helpful resource of information and tools you need to succeed in your online classroom.

Planning to teach online for the first time or just need to update a course?
The Ready2Use course templates are designed just for you. All the guesswork of designing a course is already done and ready to use. Visit readytouse.dcccd.edu for more information and course tours. We also have rich video content for many courses.

Are your students having trouble using eCampus?
The FAST Team has developed an eCampus student tutorial that you can embed in your eCampus course. Use it as a guide, resource, or as an extra credit assignment. http://fast.dcccd.edu/ecampus-training.shtml

Check out the many different tools eCampus provides:
See eCampus Gems http://tinyurl.com/eCampusGems

Got questions about course design, technology in the classroom, or getting your course Quality Matters certified?
Contact the FAST Team: fast@dcccd.edu

Want more tips and tricks? Visit our website at http://fast.dcccd.edu/faculty-resources.shtml

Designing for Different Abilities Conference this Spring

Designing for Different Abilities

The LeCroy Center and Eastfield College presents the Spring Accessibility Conference: *Designing for Different Abilities*. This year's conference will explore how technology is enhancing Universal Design and 508 compliance to meet the academic needs of all students. Hear from leaders in the field, watch demonstrations of adaptive technologies and get coaching to help enhance your online and in-class content.

Friday, April 17, 2015
Eastfield College, G Building
9:00am – 4:00pm
Register on eConnect:
Option 1: Whole Conference – XCMP-1000-49305 (6 credits)
Option 2: Morning Only (includes lunch) – XCMP-1000-49306
Option 3: Afternoon Only (includes lunch) – XCMP-1000-49319
For more information…

Get Ready for the 2015 Technology Summer Institute

Using Twitter for Assignments: To Use or Not to Use

This post from ProfHacker (January 2015) explores some of the benefits and drawbacks to one of my most successful teaching exercises using Twitter. "Live tweeting" basically means tweeting or commenting online as students are watching a program, either by reporting on or commenting on what they are viewing.

- Live-tweet gives the instructor an idea of how the material is being received
- Allows the instructor to intervene in the students' learning
- This active learning exercise helps students feel more engaged; students take ownership over the ideas that they generate
- Instructors can retweet or "favorite" tweets which offer good insights and feedback
- Helps to shift the direction of students who may be having trouble understanding
- Live-tweeting results in a set of notes that can be achieved and shared later

* Excerpts from The Chronicle of Higher Education, ProfHacker Blog, Teaching, Tech, and Productivity, by Adeline Koh

Texas Looking at Solutions for State Authorization for Online Classes

LeCroy Center provost, Dr. Pam Quinn attended the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) board meeting in Atlanta in the fall, to get the latest findings on state authorization for institutions offering online classes. The NC-SARA Board is working through the details of how to set up a national system to allow institutions to follow state laws while enrolling students in other states. The Texas Higher education coordinating board is submitting proposed wording for legislation so that the state of Texas can join NC- SARA. Currently the DCCCD is a member of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) which approves participating state institutions offerings within member states. Once Texas joins, the DCCCD colleges can participate in the national efforts.

The Department of Education is recommending compliance by July 1, 2018. The Coordinating Board is expected to be designated as the Texas SARA portal agency.

For more information contact aauzenne@dcccd.edu.

STARLINK

Online Professional Development

Transform Your Learning Environment with
Leading Edge Web-Based Professional Development

- March - Holistic Advising: Advising the Whole Student Leadership and Success Series - Dan Harris presents "10% Happier"
- April - Tips to Improve Critical Thinking/Analytic Reasoning
- May - Leadership and Success Series - Debbi Fields presents "My Recipe for Success"

STARLINKtraining.org

Quick Links

Dallas Colleges Online
Dallas Learning Solutions
STARLINK - Professional Development Training
FAST Team - Faculty Services
Employee Software Training
eCampus - Access Online Courses (Blackboard)
OnlineCommunityColleges.org
NUTN - National University Technology Network
DCTV Television
Dallas County Community College District

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