Welcome back to Three Rivers Community College. I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and had lots of fun adventures.

We have lots of things going on here in the IDEA Center. First, we purchased a set of CDs called 20 Minute Mentor. These are intense but brief training courses designed to help higher education professionals tackle unexpected challenges.

A list of these CDs is on page 5 of this newsletter. Second, we have a subscription to Go2Knowledge.org, a website that provides on-demand professional development. More information is listed in the article below. Finally, there are Blackboard Learn workshops available this semester to ensure a smooth transition from Vista to Blackboard Learn.

As always, I am here to help. Please let me know what I can do to help you.

Nina

Go2Knowledge

Go2Knowledge.org is a website that offers on-demand professional development. There are over 50 videos that are organized into the following 6 categories:

- at-risk populations
- campus safety
- organizational development
- student success
- teaching and learning
- technology, and open educational resources

Each session lasts about 90 minutes and you do have the option to pause the video as you are watching. You can watch these videos from a school computer or your home computer.

What's available to you?

- unlimited access to trainings
- training materials – ppts & handouts (click on Attachments)
- certificate upon completion

Log-in Information:

- www.go2knowledge.org
- User Name: trcc
- Password: Go2TRCC (this is case sensitive)
Do Students Learn the Material or Just Memorize?

After realizing that his students memorized material well, but rarely understood the concepts behind them, Dr. Mazur, a physics professor at Harvard University, changed his teaching method. Instead of teaching by telling, he is now teaching by questioning.

He first presents a question which the students have to answer individually. Students then discuss their answers with their group, explaining, defending and questioning their answers. Dr. Mazur and his teaching assistants circulate through the room to guide student discussions and ask questions. Dr. Mazur does include brief presentations, but makes sure that it is the students who solve the problem.

He found that by readjusting the focus of the classroom from data transfer to helping students assimilate concepts, worked out to be a better solution for his students. This is not a one-size-fits-all solution. In courses with an abundance of material, such as Health Sciences, students may need to memorize information.

Click on the first link to listen to Eric Mazur's article, “Farewell, Lecture?” The second link is an article written about Dr. Mazur's article.


E-Textbooks

Amazon recently released a new line of discount e-textbooks in partnership with McGraw Hill, Peterson and other textbook publishers. While Apple, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon all offer e-textbooks, each sells the content in different ways. For example, the Apple versions have embedded movies and infographics, whereas the Amazon version will have static graphics that still offer the ability to highlight and add notes.

Another opinion expressed in a blog found The Chronicle of Higher Education, states that students prefer print books and find e-textbooks “clumsy,” often not using the interactive features. This finding was determined by the pilot study, Internet2 eTextbook Spring 2012 Pilot Final Project Report, also linked.

Linking Jobs and Community College Curriculum

By using software that gathers up-to-date information on hiring trends, a community college can change the curriculum to align with the skills local business and industry are seeking, says Kate Kitchener, a coordinator of campus and business at LaGuardia Community College. She claims to have better success using this method than traditional labor market reports and cold-calling local employers, which often look backwards instead of addressing present as-needed skills. The article cites several programs across the nation that uses real-time data to adjust curriculum on an as-needed basis for back-to-work programs.

The New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development pointed out some concerns that not all open jobs appear online, and incomplete job descriptions, and duplication of data sometimes give wrong information. To find out more, see the article linked below.


Blackboard Learn Resources

Listed below are some resources that you can use ANYTIME to get help with Blackboard Learn.

- **TRCC Faculty Blackboard Resources** – This is a list of short videos and step-by-step guides to assist you with specific items on Blackboard Learn. http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Faculty_Bb.shtml
- **Blackboard Learn Faculty Orientation Course** – All faculty are enrolled in this course. You will see it under the “Courses in which you are enrolled” list when you login to Blackboard.
  - **Self-Paced Modules** – Learning modules or folders on each tool.
- **Connecticut Community Colleges EdTech Videos** - http://www.youtube.com/ctccedtechtraining
- **IITT Course Cart: Online Registration System for Faculty and Staff Training** - http://www.commnet.edu/academics/iitt/coursecart.asp
- **On Demand Learning Center**: Video tutorials that can help supplement your users get trained. - http://ondemand.blackboard.com/
iPad Apps for Writing

An iPad is not a substitute for a laptop, at least to it use for writing. But, there are some free apps geared toward making iPad writing easier. You can make a folder on your tablet and download some of the resources shown here from the iTunes store.

- **Evernote** allows you to create text-based materials as well as audio, picture and video notes that can be synced to your Mac, PC or other devices.
- **SimpleNote** automatically syncs to your online SimpleNote account and allows you to reuse versions of text from a previous draft. It also works with **TextExpander**, which is not a free app.
- **Infinote Pinboard** creates a set of note cards that can be exported as .png, .pdf, or .jpg formats.
- **Techy Tip**
  - Evernote allows you to create text-based materials as well as audio, picture and video notes that can be synced to your Mac, PC or other devices.
  - SimpleNote automatically syncs to your online SimpleNote account and allows you to reuse versions of text from a previous draft. It also works with TextExpander, which is not a free app.
  - Infinote Pinboard creates a set of note cards that can be exported as .png, .pdf, or .jpg formats.

Call for Articles and Events!

We are looking for articles for future IDEA Center newsletters. If you would like to submit an article, please e-mail Nina Stein at nstein@trcc.commnet.edu.

If you have an event that you would like included in the “Calendar of Events” section of the newsletter, please send the information to Nina Stein at the above e-mail address. Please include the name of the event, facilitator, location, date, and time.

Dealing with Difficult Students

In this article, Mary Bart annotates results gathered in the online seminar “Handling Annoying, Disruptive, and Dangerous Students.” She presents an eight-step outline to keep in mind during conversations with difficult students.

The eight steps are:
1. Describe the behavior and its impacts
2. Listen to the student’s perspective and response.
3. Discuss appropriate behavior
4. Discuss resources to promote success
5. Reiterate or set parameters for future behaviors
6. Share consequences for noncompliance
7. Summarize the conversation
8. Inform of any follow up:
   - Document the conversation and plan
   - Decide who you will inform
   - Check in with the student.

Magna 20 Minute Mentors answer your questions about teaching. The highly respected presenters give you the “here’s how” advice that you can start using right away. Each session lasts for just about 20 minutes, which is long enough to deliver actionable insights, but short enough to fit into your schedule. In addition, there are supplemental materials to go along with each CD.

Here are the topics available in the IDEA Center:

- What Should I Do When a Student Challenges My Authority?
- What Can I Do About Feeling Tired, Stressed, and Burned Out?
- What Are My Rubric Results Telling Me?
- What Are My Multiple Choice Test Results Telling Me?
- Should I Take Attendance?
- How Should I Respond to Wrong (or Not Very Good) Answers?
- How Can I Help Students Develop Critical Thinking Skills?
- How Do I Convert a F2F Course to a Hybrid Course?
- How Flexible Should I Be with Non-Traditional Students?
- How Do I Give Feedback that Improves Student Writing?
- How Do I Get More Students to Participate in Class?
- How Do I Discuss Academic Integrity During the First Class?
- How Do I Assign Students to Groups?
- How Can I Use Informal Writing as Part of a Low-stakes Grading Strategy?
- How Can I Transform My Tests into Learning Tools?
- How Can I Promote Deep, Lasting Student Learning?
- How Can I Promote Deep Learning through Critical Reflection?
- Blended Learning:
  - What is Blended Learning?
  - In Blended Courses, What Should Students Do Online?
  - Should I Use ADDIE as a Design Map for My Blended Courses?
  - What Three Things Could I Do to Improve My Blended Course?

The IDEA Center has 7 wireless laser remotes that faculty and staff are able to check-out. They are very easy to use, even for the non-tech savvy person! This is a great way to move around your classroom and continue teaching so you are not stuck at the podium. Included in the bag with the remote are directions and the Targus User Guide.

You go into teaching with high hopes: to inspire students, to motivate them to learn, to help them love your subject. Then you find yourself facing a crowd of expectant faces on the first day of the first semester, and you think “Now what do I do?”

Practical and lively, On Course is full of experience-tested, research-based advice for graduate students and new teaching faculty. It provides a range of innovative and traditional strategies that work well without requiring extensive preparation or long grading sessions when you’re trying to meet your own demanding requirements.

What do you put on the syllabus? How do you balance lectures with group assignments or discussions? Should you post lecture notes on a website? And what do you do about the student who won’t turn off his cell phone? Packed with anecdotes and concrete suggestions, this book will keep both inexperienced and veteran teachers on course as they navigate the calms and storms of classroom life.
# Calendar of Events

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Facilitator/Contact</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting Started with Bb Learn</td>
<td>K. Barfield</td>
<td>Webinar</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>2-4 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjunct Faculty Orientation</td>
<td>N. Stein</td>
<td>D203</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
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<td>Effective Classroom Management</td>
<td>Jen Long/</td>
<td>B128</td>
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<td>10/30</td>
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<td>E108</td>
<td>12/11</td>
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Please use the Course Cart to register for the computer and Blackboard workshops located in E108.

*It is only out on the limb where the fruit grows.* – Author unknown