Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the 2013-2014 academic year! As I was sad to see Dave Ferreira leave, I’m excited to be working with Jodi Calvert, who is the interim Director of Learning Initiatives. She has already dove in head first with the PA12-40 implementation initiatives.

I’m sure you have all seen the e-mails about the changes to Blackboard Learn. I hope that once you logged-on to Blackboard you saw that the changes were not major and you are navigating through without much difficulty. Some faculty got a jump start and took advantage of Kem’s Blackboard workshops in August. There will be more workshops on Blackboard and Microsoft Office products this fall. Please see the calendar on page 6 for upcoming workshops.

Finally, due to the growth of the Middle College, the IDEA Center has relocated to a more central and easier to find location. We are now located in D-201, near the F-wing and Student Programs. Don’t worry, Karen Aubin is still here. Her new office is down the hall in D-209.

As always, I am here to help. Please let me know what I can do to help you. Feel free to stop by my new office and say hi!

Nina

New Bus Route

On August 28th the SEAT Board of Directors voted to implement express bus service between Groton, New London, and Three Rivers Community College. The bus route started September 3rd and includes three express trips to the college and two express return trips from the college operating Monday through Fridays. Each trip costs $2.50 and lasts no more than 60 minutes.

Bus schedules have been e-mailed out to faculty and staff as well as posted on the web site for students to access. Approximately 1,000 of our students come from the Groton and New London areas, so please share this information with your students.

Any questions should be directed to:
• Meg Wichser – 383-5254, mwichser@trcc.commn et.edu
• Jacqueline Phillips – 885-2309, jphillips@trcc.commnet.edu
Blackboard Learn Update

On August 18th new and enhanced features and functionality were added to Blackboard Learn with the upgrade to Service Packs 10 & 11. No need to worry – there are NOT major changes to the interface. However, there are some terrific enhancements that make it faster and easier to navigate to various tools and resources.

Please take a few minutes to watch the two introductory videos and peruse the summary handout. If there are specific tools in the “tool-specific resources” that you use, I recommend you take a look at these related resources.

- Introductory videos and handout about new navigation options and tool enhancements:
  - Summary Handout: [Bb Learn with service packs 10/11 New Features Overview for Faculty](#)
  - Video (6:43): [Intro to Bb Learn SP10-11 Navigation Panel and My Blackboard Tools](#) (for faculty and students)
  - Video (5:35): [Bb Learn 9.1 with SP10-11 Course Interface and Tool Updates](#) (for faculty)

- The [Online Faculty/Staff Training Calendar](#) contains links to faculty training that will introduce you to the new features in Bb Learn. Both webinars and face-to-face workshops are available.

- Tool-specific self-paced resources on the sp10/11 updates:
  - [Inline Assignment Grading Quick Hit](#) video (1:53): Allows instructors to annotate and comment on student-submitted documents without downloading them.
  - Content Editor: New features include built-in "Paste from Word" functions and more powerful text editing features.
    - [Content Editor Quick Hit](#) video (1:44)
    - [Using the new Content Editor](#) video (3:59)
  - Discussion Forum: New features include improved thread display and "post first" property.
    - [Interacting with Discussions](#) video (4:05) provides a complete overview of the improved Discussions tool.
  - [Introducing the Retention Center](#) video (4:30): Enables faculty to easily identify at-risk students; replaces the Early Warning System.
  - [Calendar Feature Quick Hit](#) video (1:24): New drag and drop and direct link features
A Five Minute Film Festival

Below are ten short-films related to teaching and education. Since you only have a few minutes to grab your audience’s attention, all of these films are around or less than five minutes. You can use these to jump-start a class, start a meeting, or to wake up sleepy students.

1. Expanded Learning Opportunities (2:21)
2. What is 21st Century Education? (2:11)
3. Educate the Heart (2:00)
4. Learn to Change, Change to Learn (5:37)
5. Teachers Inspire Us (2:26)
7. Make Your Voice Heard: Discover Democratic Education (2:36)
8. An Introduction to Technology Integration (4:52)
9. Project-Based Learning: Explained (3:50)

Blackboard Learn Faculty Resources

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

- **TRCC Faculty Blackboard Resources** – This newly revised web page includes a step-by-step guide and short video to assist you with specific items in Blackboard Learn. [http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Faculty_Bb.shtml](http://www.threerivers.edu/Div_IT/EducationalTechnology/Faculty_Bb.shtml)
- **Support and Training Link** – This link is found inside Blackboard on the top left of the screen. It contains training information, links to important information on the upgrade, and links to video tutorials.
- **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](http://www.youtube.com/ctccedtechtraining)
- **ConnSCU Training Calendar** – [https://calendar.ct.edu/](https://calendar.ct.edu/)
- **On Demand Learning Center** - Video tutorials that can help supplement your users get trained. - [http://ondemand.blackboard.com/](http://ondemand.blackboard.com/)

**Techy Tip**

Five Relevant Apps for Education

Robbie Melton, the Tennessee Board of Regents’ Associate Vice Chancellor for Mobilization and Emerging Technology, listed the following as her top 5 applications that have made an impact on teaching and learning:

- **Our Choice by Al Gore**
- **The Elements**
- **Sign4Me**
- **Video Time Machine**
- **Word Lens**

Our Choice is about a plan to solve the climate crisis. The Elements uses images and text to provide users with information about the periodic table of elements. Sign4Me is a sign language translator tool. Video Time Machine has over 20,000 videos from the 1860 to the present. Word Lens translates printed words using your built-in video camera.

To read more about her interview on mobile applications, click on the article linked here.


**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.

**Collaborating on How to Collaborate**

The article linked here offers students and educators some best-practice advice on strategies to implement effective collaboration. In order for collaborative activities to work well, all members need to feel their contributions are valued, and that decision-making is a shared process moving toward a clear goal.

Adjunct Faculty Orientation

For a second year in a row, we organized a very successful Adjunct Faculty Orientation. Based on feedback from last year, we hosted two orientations in September. A total of 22 adjuncts attended the two orientations. The adjuncts came with a variety of educational experience, from 32 years at Three Rivers to a handful of adjuncts that just joined our faculty this August. President Grace Jones and Dean of Academics, Ann Branchini, both welcomed our adjunct faculty. Christine Languth spoke about Student Services, Steve Goetchius gave a brief presentation about the Information Technology department, Jodi Calvert spoke about TASC, and Nina Stein shared the resources available in the IDEA Center. The participants also learned about the updates to the instructor station and were given a brief introduction to the Blackboard Learn environment. We have received positive feedback from the orientations and plan to organize more in the future.

Targus Wireless Laser Presentation Remote

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.

Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams DVD

September 18, 2007, Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch, who was dying of pancreatic cancer, delivered this one-of-a-kind last lecture. This moving talk will teach you how to really achieve your childhood dreams. During this video Pausch shares the lessons he learned that helped him turn his childhood dreams into reality. Pausch also wrote a book entitled The Last Lecture, which was inspired by this speech, and celebrates the dreams we all strive to make realities. Several FYE instructors have incorporated The Last Lecture into their courses and have received excellent feedback from students.
### Calendar of Events

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Facilitator/Contact</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>N. Stein</td>
<td>E108</td>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>10-11:30</td>
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<td>E108</td>
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"They may forget what you said but they will never forget how you made them feel."

- Carol Buchner

Please use the [NEW Training Calendar](https://calendar.ct.edu/) to register for the computer and Blackboard workshops located in E108.