Virtual Campus
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPRING 2019 VIRTUAL CAMPUS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Contents

Registration for all sessions is required:
Email VirtualCampus@monroecc.edu or call ext. 3436 for more information.

SPRING 2019 VIRTUAL CAMPUS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Cohort 1: Blackboard

This cohort of sessions will focus on Blackboard-related topics. Sessions will range from tips for presenting content in Blackboard such as library resource permalinks to using Blackboard reporting for direction on changes that need to be made to your course.

Blackboard: Random Tips & Tricks (March 28th, 12:30 - 1:30 pm)

Although we have been using Blackboard for years, there is always more to learn. Come and learn some random tips and tricks about Blackboard in this session that will make your life easier. A few of these include using the class photo roster, embedding videos, using the date management tool, grade center tricks, configuring the My Courses module, and more. We also encourage you to bring one or two tips of your own to share with the group!

Professor Showcase: Blackboard Discussions (April 24th, 10 - 11 am)

A discussion is a great venue for students to express their ideas, for instructors to gather feedback, or for students to collaborate with other students on projects. Contrary to belief, discussions can be just as useful in face-to-face courses as they are in online courses. No matter which format you're teaching, the thoughtful use of discussions can help to better engage students and foster rich collaboration. If you're interested in learning more about the pedagogy and practices of using discussions, then we invite you to attend this session and to also share some of your own thoughts and experiences regarding discussions. This session will include a demonstration from a professor.

Blackboard Course Reports: How Can Data Help Us Improve Our Courses? (May 8th, 10 - 11 am)

Would you like to learn more about course reports and how the data from certain reports could help to inform the design of your Blackboard course? If so, this session is for you! Blackboard gathers data such as times and days of week that students are active, the total and average time a student spent in the course, which content areas the student accessed, and more. If there are areas in your course that students aren't spending enough time in or if you aren't sure you have important content in a prime location, perhaps you can make better design choices by analyzing the data from Blackboard's course reports.

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Cohort 2: Student Support Technologies & Resources

This cohort will focus primarily on tools for student support and engagement. Members of this cohort will receive training on how to effectively use Starfish to schedule appointments as well as how to engage students using tools such as Ensemble and VoiceThread. There will also be a session on the use of Open Educational Resources (OER).

Starfish Appointments (March 29th, 11 am - 12 pm)

Learn how to use Starfish for your student appointments! Students can schedule their own appointments with you online, via Starfish, based on the availability you set up. You can also designate a fellow staff member to be able to schedule appointments on behalf of students on your calendar. In this training you'll leave with your Outlook synced seamlessly with Starfish so you don't have to update two different calendars, and learn how to set your available appointment hours.

Professor Showcase: Open Educational Resources (OER) (April 30th, 1 - 2 pm)

Open Educational Resources (OER) are free, openly licensed textbooks, lesson plans, and teaching materials that you can use in whole or modify to fit your course. Come to this session to find out what makes OER so useful, hear about OER initiatives at MCC (including funding opportunities), and discover ways to customize your courses using OER to better meet students' needs. This session will include a demonstration from a professor.

Video Engagement: Ensemble & VoiceThread (May 21st, 1 - 2 pm)

Student engagement can be one of the most challenging components of a course to design and to execute, but video elements can help with this. In this course, we'll look at ways to use pre-produced videos, and simple ways to produce your own videos. We'll show you how to use MCC's Ensemble Videoserver. We'll also look at the VoiceThread tool which lets you have students interact as in a discussion board, but with video and voice as well as text. And we'll show you best practices for making videos more interactive, like adding quizzes to reinforce the content right in the middle of a video.

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Cohort 3: Teaching & Learning with Technology

This cohort will focus on infusing technology into your teaching practices, in both online and face-to-face classes. Technology is used for various reasons, and members of this cohort will gain information about successfully integrating new technologies, providing students with accessible content, and more.

The What, Why & How of Accessible Content (March 15th, 10 - 11 am)

With the many populations that MCC serves, accessibility should always be an underlying theme within how we deliver content. We'll discuss why accessibility is important, look at the many ways in which content should be made accessible (it's not just about captions!) and practical techniques to make your content accessible. We'll talk about tools like automatic and manual captioning, Blackboard Ally (those little gauges that show up in Blackboard), and more. We'll also discuss the benefits of accessible online content for all students, not just students with disabilities.

Professor Showcase: Using OneNote for Flexible Teaching (April 23rd, 4 - 5 pm)

OneNote is designed to function as an electronic version of a paper notebook. OneNote is an application designed for collecting, organizing, and sharing digital information. Faculty have access to OneNote through Microsoft Office365 and can use this tool to gain more flexibility in how they present and share materials and give feedback to students. If you're interested in exploring OneNote and its many features, you are encouraged to attend this session. This session will include a demonstration from a professor.

Teaching with Technology: Some Best Practices (May 10th, 10 - 11 am)

The Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education" was published in 1987 by Arthur W. Chickering and Zelda F. Gamson, which was based on decades of research on undergraduate education supported by the Association for Higher Education, The Education Commission of States, and the Johnson Foundation. This session will focus on technology tools and strategies that align with these principles.

The Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education
1. Encourage contact between students and faculty
2. Develop reciprocity and cooperation among students
3. Encourage active learning
4. Give prompt feedback
5. Emphasize time on task
6. Communicate high expectations
7. Respect diverse talents and ways of learning