



# NEWSLETTER

June 2016

## Virtual Campus Center Open House

Greetings all and welcome to the first ever Virtual Campus newsletter. I am thrilled we are able to bring this publication to life in the wake of the launch of the new MCC Virtual Campus! On June 17, 2015, we will be officially opening the new Virtual Campus Center, located in the physical Campus Center, Suite 3-150. Dr. Kress will be on hand to cut the ceremonial ribbon, and we will be giving tours and having conversations about the exciting future of online learning at MCC.

MCC has long been a leader in online learning since its inception in the 1990s. SUNY has often looked to us as leaders in both online and hybrid learning. The leadership of the college has been strong in its support of distance education in all forms, and has empowered the faculty to be leaders in innovation. As we move forward, the team in the virtual campus looks forward to taking our online presence to new places by supporting faculty in course development, developing student support models for success and completion, and help to spearhead new initiatives that will keep MCC in place as the online learning leader it has always been.

In the next months, we will be communicating regular updates, primarily focused on our projects: Open SUNY PLUS, support for new alternative hybrid degree models, student supports with Starfish, and as you will see on the 17th our new lecture capture system.

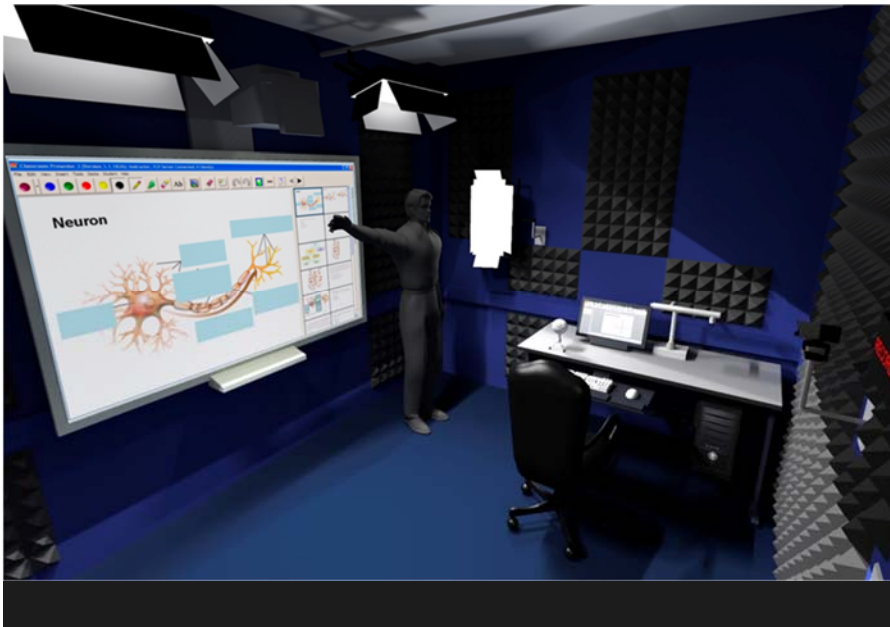


Dr. Lawrence Dugan, Director



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## 2015 MCC Award for Excellence in Professional Service

Congratulations to Jeremy Case for being awarded the 2015 MCC Award for Excellence in Professional Service. This honor is awarded to a candidate who has consistently performed superbly and exceeded their job description. Jeremy is a Multimedia Specialist in the Virtual Campus Center Instructional Technologies Department.

### The Lecture Capture Self-Record Facility

Narrated PowerPoints... lecture videos to “flip your classroom”... screen-captured video to use in your online course... audio and video podcasts... and more!

Multimedia learning objects such as these will soon be able to be produced in our Lecture Capture Self-Record Facility. Slated to open in early June, this facility will feature two soundproofed recording booths, tablet-style monitors that can be “written on” with a stylus, visualizers to record documents and objects, a Smart-Board, and more. Its construction is currently nearing completion in the space where our Faculty Innovation Center was previously located, and you’ll be able to create your learning objects on your own or with the assistance of our Multimedia Staff (Steve Weider, Jeremy Case, Bailey Burritt, and Gerry Smith) located in offices that are directly adjacent.

See a virtual tour at: [https://ensemble.itec.suny.edu/Watch/MCC\\_LectureCaptureTour](https://ensemble.itec.suny.edu/Watch/MCC_LectureCaptureTour)



### Project Zoom & Closed Captioning

Bailey Burritt piloting Project Zoom video conferencing software for use in Open SUNY + and blackboard. In addition, it is being used between the MCC Writing Center and RSCD School 58 dual enrolled students in English 105.

Steve Weider and Jeremy Case are developing an affordable Closed Captioning solution for online courses and MCC video productions as well. Jeremy Case has submitted a Strategic Planning grant for purchasing captioning services that will be embedded with content on the college’s ensemble server. The grant has been approved and plans are to begin offering captioning service in September 2015 .

## Blackboard

For those of you already certified to use Blackboard Learn at MCC, we offer Blackboard Refresher Sessions. Topic-Specific Blackboard sessions in a face-to-face classroom setting. The new schedule covering mid-June, 2015 through August 2015 will be published shortly. All sessions will be held in our brand new Virtual Campus Training Room located in 3-122A. What a great way to check out the new facility! Attend a scheduled session, or gather a group of 3 or more and contact Marie Gibson (x3436 or [mgibson@monroecc.edu](mailto:mgibson@monroecc.edu)) to arrange a date for the session that is good for your group.

Topics include:

### Course Menu 101:

Course Organization: Rethink your existing course menu and course structure with this Session

Grade Center 101: Put the full grade center to work for you!

Blackboard Assignments: Learn how to create one of Blackboard's gradable assessment items

Blackboard Tests – Create Tests and Quizzes that can grade themselves automatically!

Blackboard Discussions – Create a sense of community within your course with



## Blackboard Learn Orientation – Don't be left out!

Are you interested in getting certified to use Blackboard Learn to web enhance your face-to-face courses, or to teach a hybrid or fully online course at MCC? Perhaps you have already been certified to use Blackboard at MCC, but do you feel a bit rusty on certain aspects of Blackboard? The Virtual Campus Team is ready to help you out with either scenario!

You can quickly be on your way to becoming "Blackboard Certified" at MCC by taking our fully online Blackboard Certification Courses. The courses use an open, self-paced fully-online design to target several different audiences.

- Those who have never taught online before
- Those who have taught online but not using Blackboard Learn 9
- Those who have taught in Blackboard but not with MCC
- Those who are already MCC certified but would like a refresher.

You can read more about these certification courses by going to: <http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/distlearn/enroll.htm>

There are descriptions for the Levels 1, 2 and 3 courses, in addition to links to email your registration request to us at [ool@monroecc.edu](mailto:ool@monroecc.edu)

## **Blackboard Student Orientation Coming Soon... Summer Semester!**

We are getting ready to roll out a revised Student Orientation for Blackboard which will be coming this summer. We have condensed the Open SUNY Student Orientation that we currently offer on the My Institution page to make it more relevant to our instance of Blackboard at MCC. This will contain the Blackboard Basics that we ask our students to be familiar with such as technical requirements, how to log in, course navigation, communication tools, how to submit assignments and tests, how to check grades, and how to print from Blackboard. We will also include student success tips for how to be a successful online student. If you have any additional items that you would like to see added to the course, please email Andrea Gilbert at [agilbert14@monroecc.edu](mailto:agilbert14@monroecc.edu).



## **Faculty Innovation Center (FIC) Moved to New Home**

With the construction of the Lecture Capture Self-Record Facility, the Brighton Faculty Innovation Center has moved around the corner to a larger space with a direct entrance from the Meeting Room hall. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, come and visit us to take advantage of the high-end computers and equipment, as well as the expert advice of our Instructional Design Staff (Tom Capuano, Marie Gibson, Andrea Gilbert and Martha Kendall).

