LAST CALL for "Excellence in Online Teaching" Awards Nominations

Attention faculty! This is the last call for nominations… there's only **one week left**… please take a moment to submit a self-nomination or nominate a colleague that demonstrates excellence in teaching with technology or teaching in the online learning environment! The forms are available here:
http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/awards/forms
The **deadline** for nominations is October 18, 2015.

Using the Retention Center on Blackboard

The Retention Center is a tool included in Blackboard that provides an easy way for you to discover which students in your online course on Blackboard are at risk. Based on preconfigured rules and rules you create, students' engagement and participation are visually displayed, quickly alerting you to potential risk. From the Retention Center, you can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.

You can begin using the Retention Center features immediately—no setup required.
Watch a brief video highlighting this Blackboard tool:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bnSHI3qLik

The Retention Center in Action
Get early insight into student performance. Check the overall academic health of your class in the main table and see who is struggling. With just a glance, find out who needs your help and drill in to see their specific areas of difficulty. Contact the most at-risk students immediately and flag those you want to monitor closely. As you observe their progress and send emails, you can also keep track of this correspondence and make notes about each student right in the Retention Center.

Tailor the default rules to suit your teaching methodologies. For example, you can:

- Change the threshold for due dates to be more lenient.
- Create two or three new rules to track specific items that are good indicators of risk.
- Create rules to let you know which students are in the top five percent of your class and reward their work. You can use this information to discover student mentors, assign group membership, or find teaching assistants.

Use your course activity information to prioritize which areas of your course to attend to first. The earlier you can discover and remedy problems, the more successful students become. They are more likely to finish your distance learning course and continue the program through to graduation— the ultimate retention goal for our institution!

Watch a Tutorial:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECYwy8TSEJA&feature=player_embedded

Read more for some tips and strategies for using Blackboard to help you connect with your students in our quick guide on Best Practices for Increasing Student Retention through Blackboard (PDF File 112 Kb)

TED Talk: Ramsey Musallum: 3 Rules To Spark Learning.
Ramsey Musallum, a chemistry teacher, offers 3 rules that training developers can follow to stir imaginations and spark learner interest. Musallum also shares his personal back story of how he transitioned from "pseudo-teaching" to taking on the role of an educator who encourages curiosity. The talk is packed with valuable information, but still retains a fun and lighthearted atmosphere.

http://www.ted.com/talks/ramsey_musallam_3_rules_to_spark_learning?language=en

Online Webinar: Increasing Student Ownership of Learning Using Digital Portfolios
Presented by Rachel Langenhorst, K-12 Technology Integrationist
How do we engage students, help them take ownership of and reflect upon their work? Enter digital portfolios! Digital portfolios have become an essential part of education. Most importantly, they can also help students take pride in their work, encourage reflection, and showcase elements of their educational portfolio. It is important to note that effective learning takes place when students review their own work and reflect on their academic development. Finding the best online tools or apps to meet your needs can be a daunting task with so many viable options out there.

Attendees of this webinar will leave with options for saving student work, promoting student ownership and encouraging student reflection with the ultimate goal of having them take responsibility for their academic progress.
Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Online
For more information and to pre-register for the live session: http://ow.ly/RI6xt

2015 Online Learning Consortium International Conference: Shaping the Future of Online Learning

Arturo Cole, Director of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies, will be participating next week in the 21st Annual OLC International Conference where he'll be presenting an information session and a discovery session:
'Medición del uso significativo de las herramientas tecnológicas de Blackboard en la educación a distancia' (*A Study of Student Engagement Through the Use of Blackboard Tools in Distance Learning Courses*)

Information Session presentation (45 min session in front of audience)

'Green Screening with an iPad?! NO WAY!'
Discovery Session presentation, presented using a laptop in a table for a session that allows for interactive 1:1 discussions between presenters and attendees during one of four 45-minute Discovery Sessions.

He'll be joined by over 3,000 educators in Orlando or virtually.
This is the biggest and best online learning event of the year to connect with colleagues from around the world, to discuss a diverse range of topics, explore applied effective practices, and participate in shaping the future of online learning.
October 14-16, Orlando, FL

Blackboard Open Lab
Whether you're just starting work on your spring course or putting on those finishing touches in your fall courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there's no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-whenever-you-can event.
Sept 14, (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336 (Seating capacity: 15 seats)
Click to **register** for this event!

More

OCT 20-22	ADEIL 2015, Annual Conference of the Association for Distance Education and Independent Learning	Oct 25	Deadline to submit award application
	Charleston, South Carolina		Excellence in Online Teaching Awards- *Online*
OCT 20	Tech Tips: Videos for Teaching & Learning at UNT Dallas Showcase	OCT 28	Blackboard Open Lab
	1:00 PM—2:00 PM		2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
	Founders Hall, Rm 127		Dal 1, Rm 336
OCT 21	Blackboard Open Lab	OCT 29	DLAC—Advisory Committee Meeting
	2:30 PM – 5:00 PM		10:00 AM—12:00 PM
	Dal 1, Rm 336		Founders Hall, Rm 127

Contact Us!

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions!
Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

Web: http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit
Phone: 972-338-5580
Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu

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