



Year 1, Number 25

## Excellence in Online Teaching Awards

The Excellence in Online Teaching Awards is a University-wide program sponsored by the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology that recognizes excellence in the design of instruction and facilitation of learning in a web-based environment and the use of instructional technology in support of the teaching and learning process.

The winners and finalists of the awards receive the distinction of a special Award logo placed in their course to signify their course has been deemed outstanding or exemplary:



The awards also provides winning recipients with an engraved trophy, a framed certificate, a monetary stipend and will be recognized on a perpetual award plaque displayed on campus.

### SAVE THE DATE...



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### Revitalizing a Class during the Mid-Semester Doldrums

As the semester marches on, teachers and students realize that the optimism and expectations felt during the opening weeks will not all be realized. We have all experienced this period of the “doldrums” (Duffy & Jones) that challenges whatever sense of community was developed earlier. With both students and faculty feeling overworked and even a degree of “deflation and defensiveness,” Duffy and Jones acknowledge “students and faculty...rely on each other for the stimulation to move the course forward” (p. 162). This down period can impede learning. What can be done to mitigate its effects?

**Implications for practice:** Some faculty have found directly acknowledging the “rhythms of the semester” with a class conversation helps confront its challenges. Others revitalize the learning environment by interjecting an unexpected approach: inviting a guest speaker, using an unusual resource, giving an unexpected assignment—doing something that disrupts the routine. One physics colleague presents a “Gee Whiz” lecture that provides illustrations of unusual applications of theories within the field. A sociology colleague has students visit a local bookstore and survey books in the parenting section that present different views of “childhood” in titles and tables of contents.

**What would you do to revitalize your online class during the midsemester doldrums? What strategies would you use? What Blackboard tools or other educational technology could you use to revitalize your online class?**

Excerpt from: **The Rhythms of the Semester: Implications for Practice**

By Linda Shadiow, PhD, and Maryellen Weimer, PhD

[Faculty Focus. Higher Ed Teaching Strategies From Magna Publications](#)

References:

Duffy, D. K. & Jones, J. W. *Teaching Within the Rhythms of the Semester*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1995.

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## 16 THINGS TEACHERS SHOULD TRY IN 2016



### 13 BRANDING

### 14 3D PRINTING

### 15 LET YOUR STUDENTS TEACH YOU!

### 16 JAR OF AWESOME

## 16 Things To Try in 2016

What are your goals for 2016? There are so many new and exciting things to try both in and out of the classroom. Here is the last set of 4 ideas and EdTech to try this 2016 and help inspire you to try something new this year.

### 13. *Brand Yourself, Your Work, Your Class and/or Your Campus*

Branding is not just for companies anymore. It is becoming a necessity to brand yourself and your online presence. It will especially be important for our students entering the workforce. To get started branding yourself, your work, your classroom or your campus, begin with your website. Choose a style, logo, font and colors that you use consistently. Create social media cover images using tools like [Canva](#) to give it a consistent look. Canva has tons of templates that make design and branding easy!

### 14. *3D Print Something Awesome*

Yep, 3D printers are everywhere and are so much fun! If you haven't experienced one, find one in your district or your area to try. A lot of high schools have them now, and a lot of school maker spaces are investing as well. There are also a lot of local maker spaces popping in cities across the country. Even if you don't find a 3D printer, find out what the fuss is all about. Maker Spaces are AWESOME!

### 15. *Let Your Students Teach You*

Don't be afraid to let your students teach you, especially when it comes to technology! There is no way to know it all these days, and technology changes so quickly that it is no exception. Be open to letting your students show you a few tips and tricks. Looking for an app that does something specific for your students? Ask them! Make them a part of the planning process.

### 16. *Jar of Awesome*

Celebrate and remember you and your students' success and accomplishments with the [Jar of Awesome](#). Every time you reach a milestone, a learning goal, or receive recognition, simply add a slip of paper with the accomplishment to the jar. When you or your students are having a bad day, revisit the jar and how far you have come!

**...Which one(s) of these ideas are you going to try this year? You can pick one or two and try it in your course(s) and submit your findings and results for next year's Innovative Teaching with Technology Award!**

Via: [www.shakeuplearning.com](http://www.shakeuplearning.com)





## Unlocking Possibilities: The Latest Research Findings in eLearning

[Brown Bag Lunch Series. Track 2. Research and Best Practices in Online Teaching and Learning]

Presenters: Bradley Davis, PhD - University of Texas at Arlington  
Brinda McKinney, PhD – Arkansas State University  
Karen Manning and Angela Robbins – University of Cincinnati

Hear from four prominent online educators as they share three pieces of the eLearning best-practice puzzle in this webinar.

Learn the latest research findings from four prominent online educators in this session. The presenting faculty are recipients of Faculty Grant Program awards presented annually by Academic Partnerships.

In the webinar, they share 3 pieces of the eLearning best-practice puzzle:

- The Career Ladder: UT Arlington's Dr. Bradley Davis will discuss his study, "Exploring the Career Paths of Leadership Preparation Program Graduates."
- Use of Threaded Discussions: Arkansas State's Dr. Brinda McKinney will share her findings from "The Impact of Threaded Discussion Board Activity on Content Mastery."
- Video Feedback: Karen Manning and Angela Robbins from the University of Cincinnati online MBA program will discuss their on-going research into "Increasing Student Engagement and Positive Learning Outcomes in Online Problem Based Learning through the use of On Demand Video Feedback."

eLearning is the fastest-growing element of modern higher education. These experts will share their detailed insights, which you can use to improve your programs' potential and results.

Monday, March 7 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)



## 10 Educational Apps New Teachers Need Now

[Live Webinar]

Presented by Shannon Holden, edtech Adjunct Instructor

The explosion of cool educational apps continues! Companies, students, and administrators realize the power they hold for teaching, learning, gaming, and categorizing information. Join edtech adjunct instructor Shannon Holden as he lists his favorite educational apps for 2016.

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 @ 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)

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## Articles



(Click the links or images to read the articles)

## [Survey Reports Top Challenge for CBE Is Meaningful Assessment Tools](#)

By Michael Hart

Source: Campus Technology

Public Agenda's survey of competency-based education programs found gaps exist at most institutions between their goals and the achievement of those goals.

While most colleges and universities with competency-based education (CBE) programs believe meaningful assessment tools are important, many of them also know that finding ways to give students "substantive feedback" can be difficult.

That is one of the most significant findings of a recent survey of higher education institutions either delivering CBE programs or planning to. Most CBE programs focus on a student's demonstration of command of content and learning rather than time spent in a classroom.



[Read more...](#)



### [Role-playing Scenarios Liberate eLearning](#)

by [Seung Youn \(Yonnie\) Chyung](#), [Valerie Gardin](#), [Aly Summers](#), [Kate Aument](#)

Source: Learning Solutions Mag

Scenario-based learning and integrated branching strategies may support transfer of higher cognitive learning outcomes associated with problem solving, decision-making skills, or work-based practice. In this article, you will find an example of scenario-based learning applied to training restaurant personnel to deal with a situation with a high emotional component.

[Learn more...](#)

### [Gen Z is about to take over higher education—here’s what to expect](#)

By Lisa Malat

Source: eCampus News

[Generation Z](#) is about to take over higher education – are you ready? They are a self-reliant generation who loves to learn and isn’t afraid to use their DIY mentality and YouTube videos to learn new skills.

Survey finds digital natives “Gen Z” set to reshape higher ed landscape with focus on careers, dependence on technology.

Educators take note: it’s time to make way for Generation Z (Gen Z).

[Read more...](#)



### [7 Tips To Use Blogs In eLearning Course Design](#)

By Christopher Pappas

Source: eLearning Industry

Blogs in eLearning are no longer just for personal sharing and expert opinions. In fact, they can be a powerful and versatile tool in your next eLearning course. In this article, the author explores 7 ways to include blogs in eLearning experiences.

[Read more...](#)

## More



- MAR 14** [Spring Break](#)
- MAR 19** [Mid-Term Grades are Due](#)
- MAR 21** [Myths, Legends and Finding Bigfoot: A faculty member’s foray into online teaching](#)  
(12:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127

- MAR 22** [DLAC Meeting](#)  
(10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127
- MAR 22** [BITS #3 - Beginnings, Middles and Ends: Motivating and Engaging Your Online Students](#)  
(2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)  
DAL1, Rm 336

[Click here](#) to register for any of our **March** events.



### 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](mailto:UNTDDistance@unt.edu)



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