



Volume 2, Number 10 | October 14, 2016

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>

Or click the direct links to access the nomination form for each of the awards:

- **2016 Innovative Teaching with Technology Award:**
https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9pr3Y2MfR4WjfsF
- **2016 Outstanding Online Course Award:**
https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Sj2ap6NbpeTvn



The **deadline** for nominations is **October 21, 2015**.



If you've been nominated for an award...

You should have received this week an email indicating either a student, a peer or a self-nomination was received and you are encouraged to submit the documentation ASAP. No need to wait until the deadline (**October 31**).

Nominations will be evaluated based on the criteria listed for each award. Please refer to:

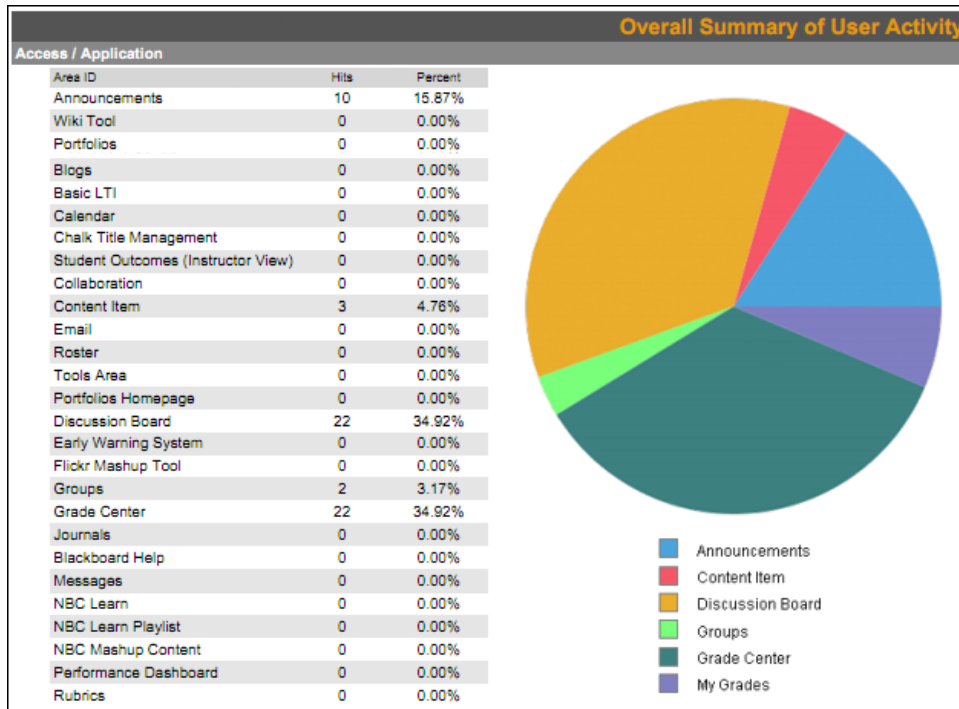
<http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/awards/criteria>

Remember that the **only required document** to be considered for the award is your reflective statement letter. Supporting documentation is **optional** but strongly encouraged for a competitive submission and will only be shared with the members of the Review and selection committee. Length is not as important as quality –provide specifics as to how your nomination meets the award criteria. Please refer to: <http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/awards/guidelines>



Blackboard Tip - Course Reports: How Are Your Students Doing?

While keeping track of student progress via the Grade Center, Performance Dashboard and course activities are great tools for encouraging student success, instructors who use Blackboard also have another powerful tool at their disposal. You can access the health of your course by looking at course-wide trends in tool and content use. When you compare these trends to student achievement, you can pinpoint areas of your course that need attention. These trends can be found in the **Control Panel** of your course in the **Evaluation** section. They are called **Course Reports**.



5 Best Practices in Video-Based Learning

Enable video-based learning to impart the right knowledge to your students and know the key parameters you need to consider before creating engaging video-based learning experiences.

Lately, video content has gained momentum in the eLearning industry with regard to capturing learners' attention. According to

[Cisco](#), video content will account for 69% for all consumer internet traffic by 2017. And, if it was another five years into the future, I wonder if you would be reading this newsletter or watching it in a video! Another insight that brings us to notice this is that humans have an attention span of 8 seconds. That means, by now you might have already left this publication or our content is actually engaging that you continue to read more. Enter video-based learning.

What drives videos in learning is their intrinsic approach of blending in seamlessly with the instructional strategy with a wide assortment of technology and delivery options. YouTube records more than one billion hits from unique visitors every month and that is excluding Facebook redirects.

So, how do you enable video-based learning to impart the right knowledge to your users? What are the key parameters you need to consider before creating engaging video-based learning? Here are some guidelines to consider to create engaging video based content for our courses at UNT Dallas:

1. Objective Ready.

Be very clear with your goals and objectives in the video. Before you infuse these objectives, spend some time in ideating what the learner will achieve by the end of the video, a clearly defined goal will simplify the learning process. Having a well-sorted objective embedded in the video helps the learner to finish the course rapidly.

2. KISS (Keep It Short & Simple)

The KISS rule works magnificently if you have your objectives ready. The length of the video should not be too long to trigger boredom; a short video would definitely keep the audience engaged. If the module is lengthy, then you might want to consider creating mini-videos of the topic to reduce cognitive load as well. Strike an equal balance between text and visuals, users should not feel burdened by viewing too much text and less of visuals.

3. The Magic Of Voiceover

Voiceovers are superb when it comes to increasing engagement in videos: You can actually guide the learner through voice scripts. Support visuals in your video through voiceover to simplify learning. In addition, learners can listen to the audio if they are engrossed in other activities that require their physical presence. Furthermore, voiceover enables blind learners to finish courses efficiently. Finally, you can choose to provide audio scripts in different languages to suit your learners' needs.

4. Captions

Insert captions if there are language barriers. In addition, captions are supportive for learners with hearing disabilities; they can easily complete the course by looking at the captions. And in short, we need to make sure that all of our content and digital resources are accessible by all our students.

5. Interactive Videos

Go beyond static videos to deliver learning; try creating interactive videos. It becomes a two way learning process when learners interact with the video, therefore boosting their confidence and understanding capabilities. The key is to include a good number of interactions to make the video engaging, as it is a powerful tool for imparting knowledge.

Please contact our office if you need guidance and assistance with planning and production of instructional videos for our distance learning courses at UNT Dallas.





Monday Morning Mentor: Cynthia

It's a great way for you to start the week!

Join Cynthia (for no more than 20-30 minutes max) to discuss and answer questions regarding current issues important to online teaching and learning. This is a great approach to get faculty training in a compact format!

Monday, October 17, 8:30 AM - 9 AM, virtual (online)



Picnic Office Hours

Join Cynthia Johnson, our Instructional Design Coordinator, in an informal drop-in discussion. Just grab lunch from the cafeteria and find her in the red blanket on the lawn in the courtyard.

Tuesday, October 18, (12 PM - 1 PM), Courtyard (*Weather permitting*)



Join us in our work room for an informal gathering of the DLIT staff and faculty to discuss your Fall '16 Blackboard experiences, learn about new ideas. We provide the rounds and you arrive to enjoy, discuss, ask questions, share stories, and learn more about distance learning and Blackboard at UNT Dallas.

Bring your questions and concerns and share with your colleagues!

Wednesday, October 19, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, FH, Rm 122

Send [email](#) to register for this event.



How to Find Stories to Ignite eLearning

[Track 2: E-Learning Design]

Presenter: Ray Jimenez, Ph.D., Chief Learning Officer of Vignettes Learning

Most designers, instructors and leaders are so accustomed to producing highly antiseptic lessons - clean, organized and controlled. However, this kills the fun and relevance of the lessons. Fortunately,

they agree that using stories would add context and engage learners. Their difficulty is where and how to find stories that support their content.

Topics covered:

- What type of stories work to support your content?
- How do you find these stories that heighten the value of the your content?
- How do you extract these stories from technical information, statistical reports, scientific data, highly legalese requirements, processes and procedures, and many others?
- How do you structure and add the stories in your content?

Attend the webinar and obtain a six-step process to extract stories from factual sources.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 @ 12 PM - 1 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127
Send [email](#) to register for this event.

Gamification by the Numbers

[Track 5: Gamification]

Presenter: Karl Kapp, Professor of Instructional Technology and Director of the Institute for Interactive Technologies, Bloomsburg University

Gamification is a hot topic, but where is the research to back up the use of gamification? People interested in gamification for learning want to see empirical results to be better informed about whether or not gamification is appropriate for their learning environment.

In this session you will review material prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, highlighting correlation results, retention, and memorization data, as well as usage data related to the gamification platform of Axonify. We will also look at some of the growing body of literature on gamification and persuasive interface design, and determine what works with gamification and what doesn't work.

Thursday, October 20, 2016 @ 12 PM - 1 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.



Overview of UNT Dallas' Online Quality Assurance Checklist

[A DLIT Instructional Design for eLearning Workshop]

The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies is responsible for reviewing all distance learning (online and hybrid) courses based on the quality standards. With University of North Texas Dallas increase of online courses and instructors, our office will review the standards in detail in hopes of assisting faculty develop a quality online course.

Presenter: Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator

Thursday, October 20, 2 PM—3 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.



How to Shoot Rich Cultural Videos on a Smartphone

[Track 4: Videos, Captioning, and Accessibility]

Presenter: Peter Kirwan, Director of Marketing, Wisetail LMS

The value of creating rich, engaging cultural stories using video is often outweighed by the perceived time, expertise, and outside resources needed to produce them. This is especially true in L&D, where video creation is an area where content creators and instructional designers may not feel comfortable

giving it a shot. In this webinar, we'll share the philosophy behind our authentic, documentary-style videos and show how our proven production process puts them within reach regardless of your filmmaking experience. By the end of this webinar, you'll have the insight, techniques, and resources needed to create your own cultural stories using the tools (smartphone and laptop) already at your fingertips.

Friday, October 21, 2016 @ 12 PM - 1 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Send [email](#) to register for this event.

OCT 21 2016 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards—Deadline for nominations

Articles



(Click the images to read the articles)



[10 Top Tips For Interactive Video](#)

By Alan Bourne

Source: elearningindustry.com

 **Time to read: 9 min**

Interactive video is more popular than ever, but how can you use it effectively in eLearning? Despite its growing reputation in training, interactive video is still seen as a gimmick by some. But when it's done well, the advantages and benefits for learners are clear.

[Read more...](#)



[Using Student Analytics for Online Course Improvement](#)

By: Jennifer Patterson Lorenzetti

Source: Faculty Focus

 **Time to read: 4 min**

Many instructors feel that they need to be experts in mathematics in order to understand analytics. But according to John Vivolo, director of online and virtual learning for New York University, every faculty member can learn to use the course analytics available through their LMS to improve student learning.

[Read more...](#)



[The Impact of Interactivity and Video on Learning](#)

by Erika Trautman

Source: Learning Solutions

 **Time to read: 2 min**

Interactivity, including gamified apps, crowdsourcing, and interactive video, is an important strategy for gaining and maintaining interest, improving learning, and even fostering employee understanding, conviction, and loyalty. Here's an introduction to the benefits of interactive video and a compelling example of its use.

[Read more...](#)



*Mark Your
Calendars!*

- OCT 24** [Monday Morning Mentor: Arturo](#)
(8:30 AM - 9 AM), virtual (online)
- OCT 24** [Adult Learning Techniques!](#)
(12 PM - 1 PM) FH, Rm 127
- OCT 25** [Thinking Aloud: Intro to Cognitive Task Analysis for Inst. Design](#)
(11 AM - 12 PM) FH, Rm 127

- OCT 31** [Instagram in the Classroom](#)
(12 PM - 1 PM) FH, Rm 127
- OCT 31** [2016 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards](#)—Deadline for nominees to submit award application



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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