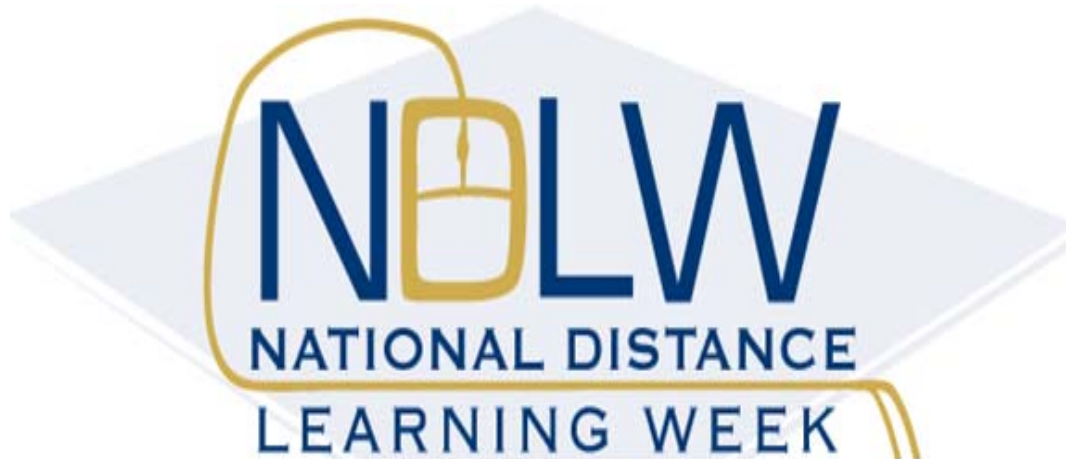




Volume 2, Number 13 | November 4, 2016



UNT Dallas Celebrates National Distance Learning Week (Nov 7 – 11, 2016)

National Distance Learning Week is next week, November 7 – 11 and it's sponsored by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA). This is a time to raise awareness of and celebrate distance learning around the country. Throughout the week, USDLA is sponsoring a series of *free* webinars on various distance learning topics to educate everyone on the growth in distance learning and showcase local accomplishments. Go to the [National Distance Learning Week](#) website to view the Schedule of Webinar Events; however, there is no need to register since the Office of DLIT is already registered as an institution. **JOIN us** in participating in the following webinars in Founders Hall, Rooms 122 and/or 127 accordingly to your personal interest!



During NDLW, all USDLA sectors including Pre-K-12, Higher Education, Corporate, Government/Military and Telehealth will educate their constituents on the amazing growth in distance learning and showcase their accomplishments. At UNT Dallas students are surrounded by opportunities to connect through technology both in and out of the classroom. UNT Dallas offers hybrid and fully online courses, but also integrates technology into the more traditional classroom setting, in addition to a variety of student support. To celebrate this transformation in education, the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology will host during this week several webinars and events to highlight the different ways technology helps students connect, learn and succeed.

According to the **United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)**, “There is a growing transformation in education, and it’s called distance learning ... using the latest technology to help students learn, distance learning stimulates you in ways a simple lecture can’t.”



This is certainly the case at UNT Dallas where students are surrounded by opportunities to connect through technology both in and out of the classroom. UNT Dallas offers hybrid and online courses, but also integrates technology into the more traditional classroom setting, in addition to a variety of student support.

To celebrate this transformation in education, the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology will host during next week several webinars and events to highlight the different ways technology helps students connect, learn and succeed.



2016 NDWL Webinar Schedule

USDLA is excited to announce the NDWL 2016 webinar schedule! All webinars are free of charge and will be powered by Blackboard Collaborate. Register below!

Monday, November 7, 2016

10:00am – 11:00am (EST)

“Align and Redesign”

Presented by: Dr. Roseann Torsiello and Professor Barbara Monaghan (Berkeley College)

This webinar will focus on the development of an online advanced writing course transformed by using the Quality Matters rubric. Highlights will include:

- Rewriting course objectives using Bloom’s Taxonomy.
- Implementing a learning outcomes matrix to focus on course development and alignment.
- Understanding the relationship between module-level learning objectives and learning activities.
- Developing multimedia content, specifically text, audio, video, animation and interactions, that create a meaningful learning environment.
- Employing formative and summative course evaluation.
- Lessons learned from student feedback and self-reflection.

[Register Here](#)

Monday, November 7, 2016

1:00pm-2:00pm (EST)

Trends in Alternative Credentialing: Benchmarks, Badges, and Noncredit Programming

Presented by: Kyle Peck, Co-director, Center for Online Innovation and Professor, Penn State University; Jim Fong, Director, Center for Research & Marketing Strategy, UPCEA; Peter Janzow, Senior Director, Business & Market Development, Pearson Acclaim

Micro-credentials, nano-credentials, badges...staying current on emerging trends in education is a challenge. It is also the life-force of the work that we do to prepare students for an ever-shifting professional landscape. In this engaging session, learn about the driving factors behind the emergence of alternative credentials, how higher education institutions are responding, and hear insights about what's next.

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

1:00pm-2:00pm (EST)

Snapchat 101: Engaging Students Online

Presented by: Dr. Wendy Tietz, Professor of Accounting, Kent State University

Snapchat is currently the number one social media platform used by 16 to 24 year olds and is rapidly gaining users aged 35 years and older. In this interactive session, you will learn the basics of Snapchat, including how to set up an account, how to communicate with other users, and Snapchat lingo and features (e.g. geofilters, swiping, face lenses). We will also discuss at least four ways that Snapchat can be used to engage your students in your class using real-life examples. Participants who have downloaded the Snapchat app will be able to put these lessons into practice in real time.

Join the Snapchat fun – and learn about a powerful way to engage your online students.

[Register Here](#)

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

10:00am – 11:00am EST

Distance Learning Resources for Telehealth

Presented by: Janet Major (Arizona Telemedicine Program)

Moderator: Pat Cassella (USDLA Board of Directors)

This webinar will share best practices as well as where to go for the resources you need to produce successful events for telehealth applications.

Please join us to learn how to produce telemedicine clinics and educational telehealth events for patients, physicians and students using telehealth and distance learning technology.

[Register Here](#)

Wednesday, November 9 | 1:00-2:00pm EST
Ask Me Anything: Online Students Tell All

Over 5.8 million students are taking at least one distance education course. What did they look for in a program to fit their needs? What tools help them succeed? What advice would they offer to a first-time online learner and/or educator? What do they really want to tell their teacher about their class? Join us for this open dialogue with three students currently enrolled in 100% online courses. “Ask them Anything” about their experiences to best help you engage and motivate your learners. As a bonus, you will also gain insight into recent research on student attitudes toward digital course materials.

Panelists

Joaquin Van Thienen | Student, Florida International University
Alex Pipitone | Student, Florida International University
Amanda Condon | Student, Arkansas Tech University

Moderators

Andrea Shaw | Director of Student Programs and Partnerships, Pearson
Gillian Seely | Director of Content Strategy, Pearson

[Register Here](#)

Thursday, November 10, 2016

10:00am – 11:00am EST

Video Conferencing & Streaming Support: How to Effectively Plan and Facilitate Connections

Presented by: Ken Conn & Roxanne Glaser (i2i Technologies)

Moderator: Sunay Palsole (USDLA Board of Directors)

“You want me to do what by when?” Those thoughts often enter our minds when faced with requests for video meetings, interviews, guest presentations, or classroom connections in the reactive world we live in. During this session, we will highlight four basic scenarios for using video communication and help participants think through the logistical and technical details. Topics will include when is video streaming more appropriate than video conferencing, specific variables to consider during preparation & set-up, and how to get everyone on the same page to set expectations.

[Register Here](#)

Thursday, November 10, 2016

11:30am – 12:30pm EST

How VTC is Changing K-12 Education in the Kenai Peninsula

Presented by: Mara Youngren-Brown and Matthew Zorbas (Student Interns); Elaine Shuck (Polycom); Rob Sparks and Greg Zorbas (KPBSD Teachers)

Moderator: Janet Major (USDLA Board of Directors)

Kenai Central High School and Soldotna Prep school are part of a school district the size of the state of West Virginia. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District includes 44 schools most accessible by road but several only accessible by airplane or boat. Video conferencing is becoming an integral part of delivering the curriculum to students and is becoming part of the training method for teachers and support staff. See how Greg Zorbas, Rob Sparks their students and many other teachers in the school district are using VTC to deliver and enhance the curriculum.

[Register Here](#)

Friday November 11, 2016

10:00am – 11:00pm EST

Using Blogging to Contribute Expertise to Your Field

Presenter: Janine Lim, PhD, Andrews University

A regular, useful blog is a true win/win, both for the writer as well as for the reader and, more broadly, a big win for an entire community of interest. A good blog serves to promote the writer's organization while underscoring that person's credibility. The reader, or course, gains useful insights and helpful perspectives.

[Register Here](#)

November 7 – 11, 2016

*** Join USDLA Global Partner- European Distance and E-Learning Network for EDLW 2016!**

Join the European Distance Learning Week for an international distance learning experience. All events are listed here:

http://www.eden-online.org/eden_conference/edlw-2016/

November 7-11, 2016

Please join USDLA sponsor, Georama, on various virtual field trips during NDLW! See below for full descriptions and visit <http://www.georama.com/ndlw2016/tours/> to register today!

**7th November @10AM EST
Ohio's Native Wildlife**

The Perkins Wildlife Center at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History takes us through five distinct ecological communities of native Ohio: we'll track a pack of coyotes, view a porcupine in its treetop perch, dodge splashing river otters, and watch young gray foxes frolic through the autumn leaves. Learn how we care for these amazing animal ambassadors!

Hosted by: Georama and Cleveland Museum of Natural History

**8th November @10AM EST
A Walk in Sorrento**

This tour is through the old town center of Sorrento in Italy, discovering part of still visible fortified walls of the ancient city. Learn about the charming historic lanes of this old town, dating back to the 1300s, as we walk around and interact with locals.

Hosted by: Georama, Berkeley College, and Atrapoi

**9th November @10AM EST
The Life of Enslaved Africans**

Experience what life was like inside the dungeon of the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana. See the cramped and grotesque conditions the enslaved Africans were forced to endure before being loaded onto ships destined for the western world. Hear the stories of the horrors of what they experienced in these dungeons from some of the descendants of the enslaved Ghanaians.

Hosted by: Georama and OIADA International

10th November @11AM EST
Reach for the Sky: The Birth of the Modern Skyscraper

Man has always dreamed of building up to the heavens. From the Tower of Babel, to the Kingdom Tower, buildings have continued to reach ever greater heights. The modern skyscraper got its start right here in Chicago. On this journey, we'll trace the evolution of the skyscraper, while looking at some of the buildings that have laid the foundations. Finally, we'll delve into the men (and women!), who's vision and abilities, made it all possible.

Hosted by: Georama and Wild Onion Walks

11th November @12PM EST
History and Culture of the 7th Largest City in America

"Remember the Alamo" as we travel San Antonio's famous Riverwalk to experience a nearly 300 year old city and uncover historic places, interesting architecture, and the confluence of the many cultures that shaped this Texas city.

Hosted by: Georama and Marci Powell

Also happening next week...



Monday Morning Mentor: Arturo

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

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/338624121>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16465588656,338624121# or
+14086380968,338624121#

Or Telephone:

Dial: +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll) or +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 338 624 121

Monday, November 7, 8:30 AM - 9 AM, virtual (online)

DLAC Meeting – Meeting 3 for the Fall Semester

The Distance Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) is a cross-functional team focused on providing guidance in the formulation of guidelines and strategies regarding resource allocation and quality accountability for online instructional excellence, as well as improving the overall quality of distance learning at UNT Dallas.

This group of faculty members and staff is involved in providing leadership in a number of key areas, including development of appropriate guidelines for online learning as well as research into best practices and faculty/student perceptions of online learning. Additionally, the Advisory Committee members serve as communication liaisons between DLIT and their respective schools, programs and departments.

All of the meetings for this semester will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month starting in September. Agendas, meeting documents, and web links are posted to the DLIT website for archival purposes.

Tuesday, November 8, (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127



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, November 9, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, FH, Rm 122

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



Articles

(Click the images to read the articles)



[Accessible eLearning Benefits All Learners](#)

by Pamela Hogle

Source: Learning Solutions

 Time to read: 7 min

Many individuals who prefer large type, enhanced contrast, or captioning on videos do not regard themselves as disabled, yet they benefit tremendously from accessible eLearning content; addressing those issues can make using eLearning easier, more convenient, and less frustrating. And if eLearning

is easier to use, learners are likely to be more engaged and willing to complete the course.

Accessible technology is meaningless without accessible content: 'Making a person's computer accessible is one thing, but if the Internet is not accessible to them, it kind of doesn't matter. They may be able to do word processing, but they're not going to be able to get the information they need.'

[Read more...](#)



[7 Best Practices For Developing Personalized eLearning Courses](#)

By Christopher Pappas
Source: elearningindustry.com

 Time to read: **4 min**

Online learners are looking for ways to overcome common challenges and achieve specific goals. They need relevant and relatable eLearning courses that help them in their everyday lives. In other words, eLearning courses that are personal and practical. In this article, the author will share the 7 best practices for developing personalized eLearning for our online learners.

[Read more...](#)



[Nuts and Bolts: Designing for Learner Success: Themes](#)

by Jane Bozarth
Source: Learning Solutions

 Time to read: **3 min**

This month, Jane looks at the importance of concept in eLearning design: the use of themes, and how they can support or sometimes harm learning. Themes can make or break an eLearning course (for the learner). For the designer, a theme can help move the work of layout and visual design along. Here's how to come up with a theme to reinforce learning, and avoid themes that do just the opposite!

[Read more...](#)



Mark Your
Calendars!

NOV 14 **Monday Morning Mentor: Cynthia**
(8:30 AM - 9 AM), virtual (online)

NOV 15 **Picnic Office Hours**
(12 PM - 1 PM), Courtyard

NOV 16 **BITS #3: Supporting the Seven Principles with Blackboard Learn**
(10 AM - 12 PM) FH, Rm 127

NOV 21-25 **Thanksgiving Break**

NOV 28 **Monday Morning Mentor: Cynthia**
(8:30 AM - 9 AM), virtual (online)

NOV 28 **The 4-Door Approach to Effective and Engaging E-Learning Design**
(12 PM - 1 PM) FH, Rm 127

NOV 29 **The Power of eBooks in a Personalized Learning Environment**
(10 AM - 11 AM) FH, 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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