### Improving Student Retention with Blackboard

Student retention has been an important topic around campus recently. There are many factors that impact student retention, such as financial needs, family issues, and personal adjustment to university life, as well as curriculum, teaching methods, and academic advising. While many of these require campus-wide cooperation, there are also small changes you can make in your teaching to help students stay engaged and be successful in your courses. The way you use technology, like Blackboard, can help, but it is important to remember that reaching students really requires a personal touch. The most important way you can impact student retention is by making sure that students feel connected and know that you care about their success.

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)

### Creating a PowerPoint Presentation Using Camtasia

Last week we shared some details on how you can do narrated PowerPoint presentation videos for your online courses. In today's weekly newsletter we want to share how you can create a PowerPoint screencast using Camtasia. The office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies recently bought a license of the Camtasia software that is available for faculty use in our workroom. Camtasia can be used to creates videos of screen captures, including mouse movements and can also be used to record "Voice-over slides" video type presentation. Camtasia can also be used straight from a PPT ribbon add-in and the narration can be recorded at the same time as recording the PPT animation.

One of the greatest features of Camtasia is you can edit the video and cut out the unwanted pieces. You can also add zoom in and zoom out and many other cool transitions and callouts. Plus, the Notes section of the PPT can be imported as captions to support WGEA accessibility.

For the video series on how to use Camtasia, go to Camtasia Studio 8 tutorial video series.
Remember, Camtasia can also create video screencasts for online software training. If you have a question about this process or if you would like to schedule a demo/recording session feel free to contact Mr. Brian Miller, our Digital Media Instructional Designer.

### Call For Nominations!

#### Nominate an online class or instructor for the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards!

Call for Nominations for Fall 2014 and/or Spring and Summer 2015 courses in recognition of outstanding online course design and teaching with technology at UNT Dallas, the office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies is conducting the

first annual Excellence in Online Teaching Recognition Awards! The Recipients of these awards will be recognized during a campus event in the spring of 2016. In addition, the winning faculty members will present his or her master online course and/or technology based projects that enhance their teaching and learning at a DLIT-sponsored workshop next year.

Please take a moment to **NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY!**

You can nominate your own class, or a class of your peers or students may also make nominations by filling out the nomination form. All faculty (adjuncts and per course) are eligible. All courses regardless of semester length are eligible for nomination for the Innovative Teaching with Technology Awards as long as they were taught at UNTD during the fall of 2014, spring or summer of 2015. Same goes for the Outstanding Online Course Award as long as the course was an online UNTD course.

For more information please visit: http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/awards

**...COMING NEXT WEEK!**

### BITS - Blackboard Innovative Teaching Series

This faculty training program bring best practices and evolved online pedagogy training to you in a concise and effective series. Each session consists of a 60 min pre-recorded webinar plus 90 min hands-on practice that have been designed for educators and will be led by our staff members. These sessions are designed to share innovative practices — content that is applicable to educators of all disciplines. Next week we'll host the following session:

### BITS #2 - Best Practices for Communicating With Your Students Through Blackboard

Presenter: Misty Cobb, Blackboard

This session provides evidence from the academic literature that establishes effective practices for course communication by emphasizing how the effective use of Blackboard features are meeting student needs and increasing student retention. Methods that will be discussed include face-to-face, LMS, email, text, notifications, and more.

Sept 23 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336

**Click here** to **register** for this event.

### DLAC Meeting #2 for the Fall Semester

If you're part of the Distance Learning Advisory Committee we'll have our second meeting for the Fall 2015 semester on Thursday, September 24th at 10:00 am in DAL 2, Rm 127 (behind the ITSS Helpdesk).

Dr. Karen Jarrell, our university Registrar, will be a guest speaker and provide information on the new Registrar system, UNT Dallas scheduling procedures and how it impacts our distance learning courses. Our committee members are especially interested in the scheduling of the new eight-week long semester courses and what we can do to develop learning strategies that will continue to support our institution's mission on active and experiential learning.

If unable to come to campus, you can web conference in using UNT Dallas' Skype for Business cloud-based technology.

# Articles

(Click the images to read the articles)



**Viva eLearning**

7 Tips For Using Analogies In eLearning

In order for eLearning to be effective, everybody agrees that you need to engage your audience. If you manage to create a connection with your online learners, the learning possibilities are endless. In this article, I'll share 7 tips for using analogies in eLearning in order to simplify complex subjects and... Continue Reading

**7 Tips For Using Analogies In eLearning - eLearning Industry**
elearningindustry.com



**Viva eLearning**

7 Tips On How To Use Forums In eLearning

Forums in eLearning allow learners to connect and collaborate in eLearning environments, making them an ideal addition to both asynchronous and synchronous instructional strategies. In this article, I'll offer 7 tips that can help you integrate forums into your next eLearning course.
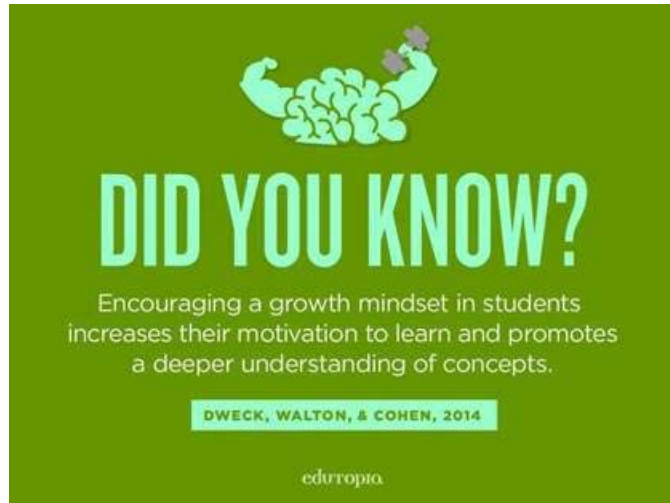
http://elearningindust... Continue Reading

**7 Tips On How To Use Forums In eLearning - eLearning Industry**
elearningindustry.com

*More*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **SEP 29** **Issues and Trends in Edtec in 2015** | **OCT 07** **BITS #3 - Using Bloom's Digital** |
| 12:00 PM—1:00 PM | **Taxonomy to Maximize Student** |
| Dal 2, Rm 127 | **Engagement** |
| **SEP 29** **Characteristics of Effective** | 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM |
| **Feedback** | Dal 1, Rm 336 |
| 4:00 PM—5:00 PM | **OCT** **Online Learning Consortium** |
| Dal 2, Rm 127 or virtually | **14-16** **International Conference:** |
| **SEP 30** **Mid-Term Grading Café** | **Shaping the Future of Online** |
| 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM | **Learning** |
| Dal 1, Rm 336 | Orlando, Florida |
| **OCT 05** **Quick Start to Captioning** | **OCT 14** **Blackboard Open Lab** |
| 12:00 PM—1:00 PM | 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM |
| Dal 2, Rm 127 | Dal 1, Rm 336 |
| **OCT 06** **Meetup 2 – Let's learn something!** | **Oct 18** Deadline for nominations |
| 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | **Excellence in Online Teaching** |
| Dal 2, Rm 127 | **Awards-** *Online* |

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Encouraging a growth mindset in students increases their motivation to learn and promotes a deeper understanding of concepts.

DWECK, WALTON, & COHEN, 2014

edutopia



## 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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