

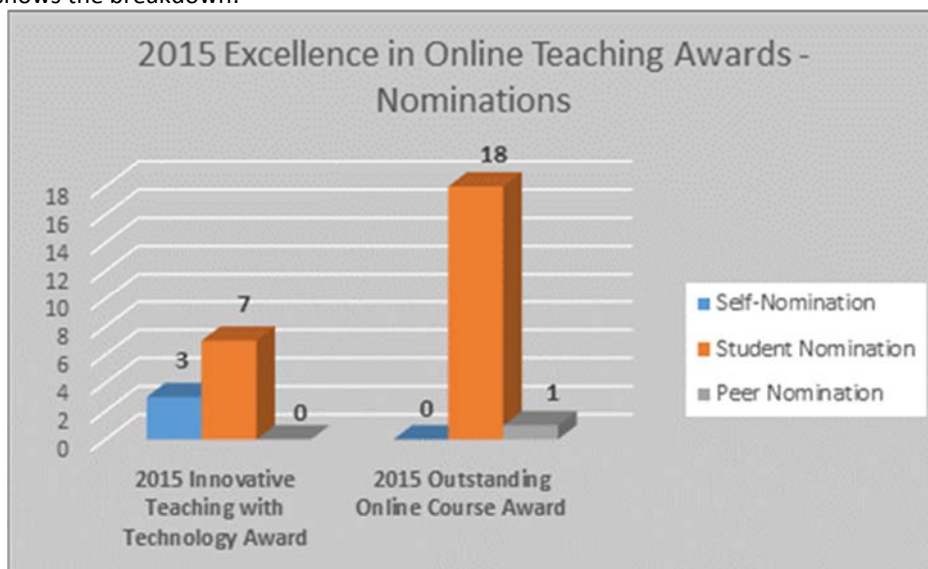


Year 1, Number 7

Deadline for nominations is near - Excellence in Online Teaching Awards

Remember that the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Recognition Awards competition is currently accepting nominations. Please check the DLIT website for full details.

Status Update: So far we've received a total of 29 nominations for the awards. The graph below shows the breakdown:



Email notifications were sent out earlier this week to all faculty that has been nominated. Remember that the next step after been nominated is that you must submit the supporting documentation. The only document that is required is your reflective statement letter. Any other additional supporting documentation is completely optional. If you've been nominated and would like to see the type of documentation that you may submit please visit: <http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit/awards/guidelines>

We still have two more weeks, please take this opportunity to help identify your colleagues or your instructors at UNT Dallas who have made creative and effective use of technology to improve their courses and programs. If you or someone you know has provided an exemplary online learning experience to their students in the past year or someone who has used technology in an innovative way in their teaching and learning fill out a nomination forms. Click the links to access the nomination form for each of the awards:

- [2015 Innovative Teaching with Technology Award](#)
- [2015 Outstanding Online Course Award](#)



Best Practice: Reduce Your Course Size on Blackboard



This week we would like to share with you some of the things that you can do to reduce your course sizes on Blackboard. It's really important to be mindful of the sizes of the courses you create, and besides, your Blackboard administrators will REALLY appreciate it!

Minimizing uploaded file sizes as you create content will help us maintain our Blackboard storage space available. The following recommendations can help you do your part to conserve disk space on Blackboard @ UNTD.

Video — link to videos rather than uploading video files to a course. Instead, upload your videos to YouTube, Vimeo, or a separate media server on campus and then link to them within a course. You can upload a video on YouTube and have it unlisted, that way only students who have the direct link to your video will see it and it will not be visible from those who search on YouTube. Be mindful of intellectual property rules. For example, it might not be legal to host a video from National Geographic on Vimeo, even if you licensed it to use in a course.

Use Mashups — upload slide decks to SlideShare, video to YouTube, or images to Flickr. You can easily embed these elements in your course with the Blackboard Learn Mashups tool. To learn more, see [How to Create Mashups](#).

Course Files — look for large file sizes and unused files and folders that you can delete.

Reduce File Sizes — before uploading, reduce file sizes for:

- Microsoft Office Files - Use the tools available in Microsoft Office to reduce file size for PowerPoint and Word files. The Reduce File Size option is located in the File menu. You can also save files as PDFs before uploading, which often makes smaller, read-only versions of the files.
- Images - Use a graphics program to resize images for screen viewing before uploading. You can also use an online service such as <http://www.shrinkpictures.com> or <http://www.picsize.com>.
- Audio - Use software to resample or trim audio files to reduce their size.

For more information or assistance on these tasks please contact the office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies.

TED Talks, Ideas Worth Spreading

TED talks are inspirational and innovative speeches that delve into the presenter's topic of choice. Each video features stories, tips, and helpful insights that you won't find elsewhere, all packed into an 18 minute time limit. This is a unique way of exploring a learning topic from a whole new perspective, and it's really a rare opportunity.

TED talks offer the chance to dive into the minds of other educators, subject matter experts, and eLearning professionals. And starting this week, we'll begin sharing with you all some TED Talks that are definitely worth a watch or that you won't want to miss!



Eddie Obeng: Smart Failure For A Fast-Changing World.

One of the most valuable teaching tools we can offer our corporate learners is the ability to benefit from their mistakes. Failure is not the end; it is the beginning of a learning experience that leads to personal and professional growth. Eddie Obeng delivers an amazing Ted Talk about our quickly changing world, the constant struggle to create bigger and better things, and shares three essential changes that everyone must understand in order to

boost productivity. He also encourages viewers to believe in the power of “smart failure” to keep up with the ever-changing environment. Click the following link to access the full TED talk:

https://www.ted.com/talks/eddie_obeng_smart_failure_for_a_fast_changing_world?language=en



Brown Bag Series

Join the DLIT team for our *NEW* Brown Bag Series. All UNT Dallas faculty and staff may attend and it's free of charge-just bring your lunch or stop by the cafe before the workshops and come learn with us. You won't want to miss these! Our series continues next week with the following session:

Quick Start to Captioning

Learn about accessibility laws and compliance, how to create closed captions, getting the right caption format and more. This session will

cover Section 508 accessibility compliance, creation of closed captions, explanation of caption formats and video player compatibility, as well as an overview of automated workflows and integration with lecture capture and video platforms.

Oct 5 (12:00 PM), Founder's Hall, Rm 127

Click to [register](#) for this event!



Let's Meet Up!

Meetups are colleagues getting together to “do something, learn something, share something, change something.” This space is for any faculty (FT or adjunct) or staff member that wants to meet either in person or virtually to talk about and lead the eLearning transformation at UNT Dallas. We will held our second Meetup gathering on

Oct 06 (3:30 – 5:00 PM), Founder's Hall, Rm 127– Let's **learn** something!

Click to [register](#) for this event!



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 #3 - Using Bloom's Digital Taxonomy to Maximize Student Engagement

Presenter: Marcie Newton, College of Saint Rose

Today's learners have a wide variety of communication tools at their fingertips, including blogs, wikis, and discussion boards right within Blackboard. What are the similarities and differences between how students use these tools to engage in Higher

Order Thinking as described in Bloom's Taxonomy? How can we maximize student engagement using these valuable tools within My Blackboard? Marcie Newton of the College of Saint Rose will answer these questions and offer effective teaching strategies based on Bloom's Digital Taxonomy to encourage student engagement.

Oct 07 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1, Rm 336


[Click here](#) to **register** for this event.



Articles




(Click the images to read the articles)

 **eLearning Industry**

Writing Learning Objectives For eLearning: What eLearning Professionals Should Know

"Setting clear learning objectives" is a requirement you have probably read a thousand times when reading about how to design effective eLearning courses. However, "clear" may have different meaning for different people; what is absolutely clear to you may not be a... [Continue Reading](#)



Writing Learning Objectives For eLearning: What eLearning Professionals...
elearningindustry.com

 **eLearning Industry**

8 EdTech Tools To Kick-Start Your eLearning Superpowers <http://dlvr.it/CKLwG3>
#EducationalTechnology #eLearningProfessionals



More



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|------------------|---|---------------|--|
| OCT 14-16 | Online Learning Consortium International Conference: Shaping the Future of Online Learning
Orlando, Florida | OCT 20 | Tech Tips: Videos for Teaching & Learning at UNT Dallas Showcase
1:00 PM—2:00 PM
Founder's Hall, Rm 127 |
| OCT 14 | Blackboard Open Lab
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336 | OCT 21 | Blackboard Open Lab
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336 |
| Oct 18 | Deadline for nominations
Excellence in Online Teaching Awards- Online | Oct 25 | Deadline to submit award application
Excellence in Online Teaching Awards- Online |
| OCT 20-22 | ADEIL 2015, Annual Conference of the Association for Distance Education and Independent Learning
Charleston, South Carolina | OCT 28 | Blackboard Open Lab
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336 |
| | | OCT 29 | DLAC—Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 AM—12:00 PM
Founder's 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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