



Year 1, Number 13

## Texas among 5 New SARA States in SREB

### SARA helps states make distance education more accessible across state lines

On October 28, Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi and Texas were approved by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) to join the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). These states bring the number of participating states to 34, with over half the SREB states participating in SARA.

SARA is a nationwide initiative of states that will make distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines and make it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in interstate distance education. The effort is funded by a \$3 million grant from Lumina Foundation, \$200,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and fees paid by institutions.

SARA makes it easier for states to regulate interstate distance education, and it eliminates approval costs for colleges and universities that are often passed to students. Institutions in the five SREB states may now join the clearinghouse through the reciprocity agreements.

“SARA increases access to education especially for adult students who juggle other responsibilities when they return to complete degrees, says SREB President Dave Spence. “Education remains critical to state goals to increase college completion rates and build a better-educated workforce.”

SARA agreements are overseen by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) and are being implemented by the four regional higher education interstate compacts: the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Texas is a member of SREB.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will serve as our state “portal agency” for SARA.



SARA aims to simplify how college and universities become authorized to offer distance education to students in other states. In the past, individual institutions had to apply to operate in every state from which they intended to enroll students -- a very time-consuming and expensive process that involved navigating and keeping up with each state’s changing regulations.

Basically, in the past, it was a process similar to that system to having to get 50 different driver’s licenses to be able to drive in every state. SARA, similar to how driver’s licenses actually work, has to do with reciprocity. Once a state joins SARA, institutions there can apply for blanket approval to offer distance education to students in the other member states.

We're really excited now that UNT Dallas has the opportunity to become a member of SARA.



# Articles



(Click the images to read the articles)



eLearning Industry

How To Motivate Millennials: 7 Tips For eLearning Professionals

Motivation is the core of effective eLearning for millennials. Even if none of the other puzzle pieces are present and they are distracted or busy with their everyday lives, motivation can drive millennials to succeed. As eLearning professionals, you must identify their sources of mot... Continue Reading



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Where To Start With Creating Your Online Course (Exercise)

One of the most common roadblocks for aspiring educators is grasping the idea of what to teach and then getting started with creating their online course. Here's a simple exercise how to clear that fog of doubts.

<http://elearningindustry.com/start-creating-online-course-exercise>

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## Can Castle Competition

During this week, the office of Distance Learning was invited to team up with Academic Affairs and the office of Marketing and Communications to participate in the Can Castle Competition organized by Student Affairs.

Teams of students, staff and faculty members had one hour to build the most creative structure out of cans of food items. There were two categories in the competition, departments and student organizations.

All cans used in the making of the castles will help stock the new **UNT Dallas Food Pantry** for displaced members of our campus community.

We had a fun time collecting food and building and rebuilding our Can Castle, and at the end our "Arandelle Campus of UNT Dallas" creation won the departments' category. And the Veteran Student Organization bringing the glory in their category.





Above is a photo of our creative castle entry. Based on the Frozen movie we used more than 220 cans and food items to create a castle with a “special” wing attached to the castle for the “Wicked Mother-in-Law”, a bridge on top of water bottles and even a ship making its way towards the castle. Maria Cardona-Brooks, Ashley Johnson, Dean Shumway, Cynthia Johnson, Dena Hale, Nancy Srock, Katrina Coakley, Alicia Brosette, Liz Hayden, and Arturo Cole are some of the staff members from Academic Affairs, Marketing and Communications and Distance Learning that were part of this year’s winning staff team.



This type of events remind us of how fortunate many of us are, and how important it is to help those who are struggling. And what better way to begin Thanksgiving Holiday than by giving and supporting our UNTD family.

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**One Final Note:**

From all of us at the office of **Distance Learning and Instructional Technology**, we wish you and yours a Thanksgiving filled with peace, love and great joy. Have a wonderful time... **Happy Thanksgiving!**





### 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:

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