



Year 1, Number 21



### Finalists for the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards Announced

The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional is proud to announce the following finalists for the **2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards**, which promote superior online teaching, provide models of excellence and innovation for fellow faculty, and encourage all faculty to continue to improve and advance their online teaching pedagogy and their use of instructional technology in support of the teaching and learning process at UNT Dallas. The award recipients will later be announced as the Review Sub-Committee is currently reviewing the letters and supported documentation submitted by the nominees.

#### Innovative Teaching with Technology Award Finalists:

*(In Alphabetical Order)*

- a) **Dr. Donna Hamilton**  
School of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Life & Health Sciences Department  
Course: BIOL 1132: Environmental Science  
Semester: Fall 2014 (Online)
- b) **Dr. Marco Shappeck and Dr. Katie Welch**  
School of Education  
Teacher Education & Administration  
Department  
Courses:  
LING 2050: The Language of Now  
LING 3060: Principals of Language Study  
LING 4030: Acquisition of English as a Second  
Language  
Spring 2015 (Hybrid)
- c) **Prof. Lea Young**  
School of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Languages & Communication Department  
Course: UGRW 1200: Tutorial Option in  
Developmental Writing  
Spring 2015 (Traditional)

#### Outstanding Online Course Award Finalists:

*(In Alphabetical Order)*

- a) **Dr. Lynda Folts**  
School of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Life & Health Sciences Department  
Course: BIOL 1082: Biology for Educators  
Spring 2015 (Online)
- b) **Dr. Amy McCortney**  
School of Human Services  
Counseling and Human Development Department  
Course: COUN 5765: Appraisal in Counseling  
Summer 2015 (Online)
- c) **Dr. Joy Patton**  
School of Human Services  
Counseling and Human Development Department  
Course: HSML 4200: Grant Proposal Writing  
Spring 2015 (Online)
- d) **Dr. Syeda Jesmin**  
School of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Life & Health Sciences Department  
Course: SOCI 3330: Social Stratification  
Spring 2015 (Online)

**Congratulations to this year's finalists!**

## Distance Learning at UNT Dallas Spring 2016 Statistics

Interestingly enough, distance education dates back to the 19th century and the advent of the postal service. With the fairly recent arrival of computers and the internet, distance education quickly evolved into online education. Now, accredited online college degree programs have been around for almost an entire generation.

But only recently is online learning truly becoming more mainstream, thanks to technology advances, lifestyle demands and, most importantly, the expansion of quality online education offerings.

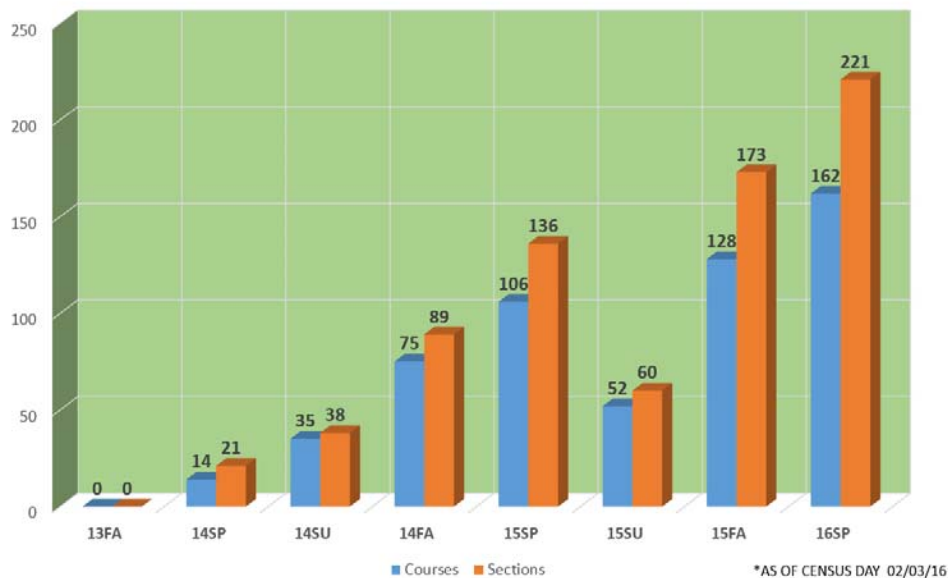
Online course offerings provided by UNTD have grown tremendously in the last couple years, and went from having virtually (no pun intended) no online courses at all to 162 different courses in less than 2 years. UNTD started offering online classes in the Spring of 2014 and for the Spring semester of this year, our Distance Learning offerings include **221 sections of 162** fully or partially online courses.



Online Growth at

**UNT DALLAS**  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

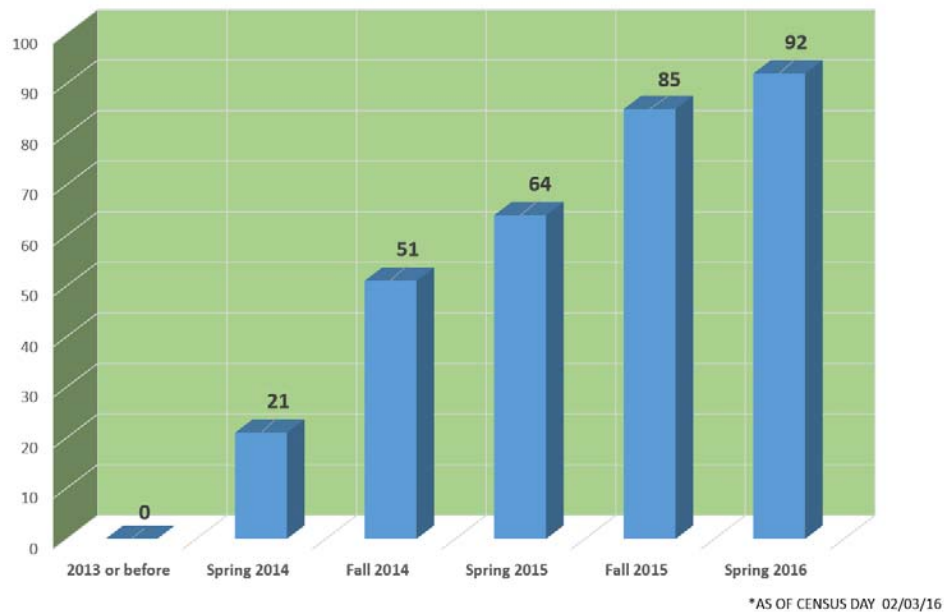
## Distance Learning Courses & Sections Offerings



This represents an increase of **53%** in number of courses and a **63%** increase in total number of sections being offered compared to the spring semester of last year.

This growth is an example of our university's commitment to online learning and online student success.

# Faculty Teaching Online at UNT'D



The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies, a division of Academic Affairs, is responsible for coordinating the design and development of all e-Learning course offerings that provide high quality hybrid and online learning experiences for students. This semester the office is working alongside with **92 different instructors** that are currently teaching hybrid/blended and/or fully online courses and work diligently in order for the courses to meet our quality standards for online teaching and learning.

This represents an increase of **44%** more instructors compared to the numbers of spring semester of last year in the number of faculty involved in Distance Learning at UNT Dallas.



**FREE ON-CAMPUS ACCESS!**

**20 Minute Mentor Commons** has provided a listing of programs with links and descriptions:

Here are some programs which might prove interesting and helpful from **20 Minute Mentor Commons** (*you may view information on all 4 programs below under "4 Programs for Start of the Semester"*).

[10 Ways to Engage Your Students on the First Day of Class](#)

[What to Teach When There Isn't Time to Teach Everything](#)

[Managing the Adjunct Pool for Consistent Learning Outcome](#)

[A Good Start: Helping First-year Students Acclimate to College](#)

See their complete catalog/programs:

[Invite - 20 Minute Mentor Commons](#)  
[20 Minute Mentor Commons Programs](#)  
[Start of the Semester](#)

[Magna Commons Programs](#)  
[Start of the Semester](#)  
[Featured Seminar](#)



**Video Captioning Features, Costs, Good Practices, and How Captioning Benefits All Students**  
[Brown Bag Lunch Series. Track: Online Usability and Accessibility]

In February 2015, the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) filed suit against Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology for alleged violations of the ADA and Section 504 by failing to provide adequate closed captioning for online video resources. The U.S. Department of Justice is handling the case. Higher education institutions must be in compliance with federal accessibility laws but their ability to do so is challenged by a number of factors, including leadership, staff resources,



cost, decentralized video production activities by individual faculty and departments, copyright, and more. The expert presenters in this program will cover a wealth of valuable information to help colleges and universities conduct an internal assessment of who is in charge, how to develop a remediation plan, what captioning features are needed (e.g. closed captioning, real-time, transcribing), and what can be learned from Kent State's and Texas Tech's work for providing captioning services to students, faculty, and staff.

Presenters: Kathy Furlan Educational Representative, and Christopher Keveny, Manager, Media Services and Real-time Captioning, Teleperformance RapidText

Tole Khesin VP of Marketing, 3Play Media

Amy Quillin Director, Student Accessibility Services, Kent State University

Monday, February 8 (12:00 PM - 1:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)



### What's Wrong with Wikipedia? Best Practices for Evaluating Student Sources [Turnitin Webcast Series]

Whether it's a recent Pew Research Center study on student research habits or data from Turnitin's analysis of the sources that students turn to online, Wikipedia emerges as the top source that students reference. Educators are well aware of the shortcomings of relying on crowd-sourced content for authoritative information, but the meaning of the message appears to be not taking hold for students. In response to this knowledge gap, Turnitin developed a website evaluation rubric for instructors to share with students.

In this webcast, we'll explore the connection between student source choices and the development of research and critical thinking skills. We'll also discuss the development of the Turnitin website evaluation rubric to help students enhance their competencies in evaluating online sources.

Presenters: Renee Bangerter, Professor of English at Saddleback College,  
Jason Chu, Senior Education Manager at Turnitin.

Tuesday, February 9 (1:00 PM - 1:30 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)

### Hybrid/Online Teaching [eFLC]

Whether you are a veteran or have just had that scary conversation with your Dean, join us as we discuss the wonders, joys and pitfalls of online and hybrid teaching. **Cynthia Johnson**, our Instructional Design Coordinator, will guide this group of faculty as they grow and learn from the blessings and curses of teaching in an online environment.

Wednesday, February 10 (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)

### Millennials, E-learning, And The Evolving Workplace

[Live Webinar]

2015 marks the year that the “millennial” became not only the largest generation in the workforce, but the largest living generation. This shift has spurred the release of a multitude of reports on differences in workplace habits, technology use and buying power of what appears to be a very hands-on, connected, and collaborative population. Simultaneously, we are watching the equally large population of “Baby Boomers” retire from business and leadership roles. This confluence of factors is creating a leadership gap in the workplace, resulting in young leaders being thrust into managerial roles with little to no preparation. A lack of innovative options for delivering training to this population seems to keep us stuck force-fitting traditional solutions rather than evolving



our approach.

Please join University of California, Irvine Extension in welcoming 20-year veteran of e-learning and product development for fast-growing organizations, Mary Keenan, in discussing how to re-think the way we deliver learning to the dominant and most analyzed population in recent history.

Presenter: Mary Keenan Asher, Vice President, Product Development, Retention Education, Inc.

Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

[Register here.](#)

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## Articles



(Click the images to read the articles)

### [Ready to Flip: Three Ways to Hold Students Accountable for Pre-Class Work](#)

By Barbi Honeycutt, PhD

One of the most frequent questions faculty ask about the flipped classroom model is: "How do you encourage students to actually do the pre-class work and come to class prepared?"



This is not really a new question for educators. We've always assigned some type of homework, and there have always been students who do not come to class ready to learn. However, the flipped classroom conversation has launched this question straight to the top of the list of challenges faculty face when implementing this model in their classrooms. By design, the flipped model places more emphasis on the importance of homework or pre-class work to ensure that in-person class time is effective, allowing the instructor and the students to explore higher levels of application and analysis together. If students are unprepared, it leads to frustration, stress, and anxiety for everyone.

[Read more...](#)

### [Research: Game-Based Learning Can Help Nontraditional Student](#)

By Dian Schaffhauser

Game-based learning should just be another tool in the belt, as far as educators in higher ed think, particularly useful for "learning moments" that can help students succeed, according to new research from Muzzy Lane. Likewise, game-based learning is no good if it's pricey and complex to develop; it needs to be inexpensive and "authorable" by the faculty members themselves. And don't forget, students say, to make the games mobile so they work on the same devices the students like to use.



[Read more...](#)

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More



**FEB 15 Promoting a Culture of Accessibility for Online Students**

(12:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 16 Blackboard Open Lab**

(2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)  
DAL1, Rm 336

**FEB 16 Newbies [eFLC]**

(2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 17 Experiential Learning: Overcoming Barriers & Elevating the Online Learning Experience**

(2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 18 Accelerating Experience-Based Learning for High-Performance**

(2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 22 Making Your Courses Accessible for Those With Disabilities**

(12:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 23 DLAC Meeting**

(10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 127

**FEB 23 BITS #2 - The Ins and Outs of Writing Effective Discussion Questions**

(2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)  
DAL1, Rm 336

**FEB 24 Test Creation Made Simple**

(10:00 AM—11:30 AM)  
DAL1, Rm 336

**FEB 25 Flip Instruction and Create a Student-Centered Classroom**

(3:00 PM - 4:00 PM)  
Founders Hall, Rm 124

Register to any of our **February** events [here](#).



**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](mailto:UNTDDistance@unt.edu)



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