



Designing Environments for Learners



Making the transition from teaching face-to-face calls for a new way of thinking about how people learn. The online learning environment is not bound by text-based lectures, multiple-choice exams, and routine end-of-chapter assignments. Interactive learning modules, virtual teams, collaborative projects, creative use of communication tools and individualized assessments are examples of the features of an online course that enhance learning.

The online learning environment is also enriched by the variety of ideas shared in the discussions among students from different geographic regions, varied backgrounds and experiences. The diversity of online students is reflected in their multiple learning styles and preferences. Designing courses to support diverse learners might consist of presenting content in several formats, creating multiple communication options, offering a variety of assessments of student learning and opportunities for demonstrating mastery of the learning objectives. At the same time, a supportive learning environment is clear and easy to navigate so that students feel comfortable. We encourage faculty to work together with our instructional designers as well as their faculty colleagues to develop quality online learning environments for their students.

—Andrea Henne, EdD, Dean, Online and Distributed Learning

Vista 4 Online Course Migration Project Complete

We have successfully met the goal of converting all courses using WebCT Campus Edition to the new Blackboard/WebCT Vista 4 system. As of the start of the Spring 2008 semester on January 28, all fully and partially online courses are being taught on Vista 4. During the Spring 2008 semester, faculty who use WebCT Campus Edition for their oncampus courses will be offered training and support in migrating their course materials to Vista 4. Campus Edition will be discontinued by the end of Fall 2008.



A new training group starts each month. The training and course migration process has been streamlined to make the best use of busy faculty members' time. After attending a one-hour orientation to the training, receiving training materials and login instructions, faculty participate in an interactive online Vista 4 training course with their colleagues. One-to-one instructional design support is provided for each faculty member at their campus or at the faculty support production office at 9315 Hillery Drive, W-222.

The orientation schedules are posted to the **Faculty Training** site at <http://www.sdccdonline.net/faculty/training>

Faculty can make appointments for one-to-one course migration support using the appointment calendar posted to the Faculty Training site.



**Online Teaching
Excellence Symposium**
April 25, 2008
- see *back cover* for details



Faculty Workshops

**Camtasia
Respondus
Video Production
Video Captioning
Blackboard/Vista 4
Tips & Tricks**

For more information:

www.sdccdonline.net/faculty
Faculty Flex Calendar

Fast Facts:

- Spring '08 registrations for online courses are adding up to over 17,700! That's a 10% growth from last Spring.
- This Spring the number of faculty teaching online from City, Mesa Miramar and Continuing Ed now totals over 260. Fifty of these faculty are teaching online for the first time.
- Online Learning Pathways has trained 169 faculty members in Blackboard/WebCT Vista. These 169 faculty earned Certificates of Completion by finishing the online portion of the training and 10 hours of course design support with our instructional designers.