



COLLEGE OF
MARIN

DE@COM

Table of Contents

Three-Year Development Plan

There is a three-year plan to develop Distance Education (DE) at the College of Marin.

DE@COM Fully Online

In consideration for the environment, DE@COM is now a fully online publication with embedded links rather than URLs. Just click on the blue text to activate the links.

Click Clack from DE Students

Lucretia Witte, a senior at Dartmouth, conducted a research project on students' views of technology and learning.

Bb Training @ COM

Ali Klinger offers Bb training on Friday afternoons throughout the semester in LC 121.

Best Practices & Online Learning Objects

Pedagogical tips and tools, as well as digital, web-based resources.

Must Follow

Valluable sites to check out for the latest on distance education.

Thanks for Sharing!

Peggy Dodge (Early Childhood Education) has been researching on student response systems for use with her ECE students.

Three-Year Development Plan

There is a three-year plan to develop Distance Education (DE) at the College of Marin. The plan has two intended outcomes: to increase our online course offerings and to improve our rate of student success in online courses.

College of Marin Strategic Plan 2009-2012; Strategic Objective 1.2.

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Click Clack from DE Students

Lucretia Witte, a senior at Dartmouth, conducted a research project on students' views of technology and learning. "Across the board, students noted that they would like to have the opportunity for many different types of assignments and assessments. With the classroom technology we have today, students could make a movie, create a webinar, write a blog, give a presentation supported by Ppt, or take their exam online; and learning materials can be movies, news links, podcasts, journals from any time or place in the world, virtual tutorials, or online texts." Her advice to instructors and colleges about technology and teaching: "Embrace it! My generation was weaned on technology. For better or for worse, it's our 'language.' Integrating technology into your classroom will give us the tools to translate our liberal arts education directly onto the most advanced issues in the modern world." From "[A Student's Views](#)," An Interview with Joshua Kim.

Writers and Word Counters

750words.com is a cool site to explore when next you find yourself poised at the keyboard, or try it with your students who are working on longer essays.

One of the very telling features is the Stats Page: it "watch[es] how quickly you type, how many breaks you take, etc to draw some very general conclusions about how 'focused' you are at the moment. It[t] also time[s] how long it takes to get to 750 words." See the article about 750words.com in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* [here](#).

Got Something to Share?

Send best practices, suggestions, and web links for inclusion in DE@COM to alisa.klinger@marin.edu

Bb Training @ COM

Is there something about Blackboard that confuses or confounds you? If so, why not suggest a training topic? Ali Klinger offers Bb training on Friday afternoons throughout the semester in LC 121. By keeping the training limited to a few people at a time, Ali can share a brief training module with the group, as well as provide some one-on-one customized support.

To suggest a training topic or to RSVP for a Friday in May training, please e-mail alisa.klinger@marin.edu

If you are new to Blackboard, please request a demo shell from Steve Dodson (7473) before attending training, and be sure to bring your Blackboard log-on information with you: steve.dodson@marin.edu

Teaching Online Q & A

Friday, May 14, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in LC 121

This session is dedicated to responding to specific questions about online instruction. Come prepared with your questions about existing courses or courses you might want to create.

Summer Is A Great Time to Build Your Skills

"The @ONE Project makes it easy for California Community College faculty and staff to learn about technology that will enhance student learning and success. @ONE's programs provide training, online resources and research for free - or at a very low cost - thanks to funding from the California Community College Chancellor's Office Telecommunication and Technology Infrastructure Program (TTIP)."

- [Summer institutes and trainings](#)
- [Summer courses](#)
- **Free Upcoming Desktop Seminars:**
 - Building an Online Writing Center - Wed, 04/28/2010 - 12:00 p.m.
 - Current Issues in Distance Education - Thu, 04/29/2010 - 12:00 p.m.
 - Windows 7 for IT Professionals Part 1: Security and Control - Tue, 05/04/2010 - 12:00 p.m.
 - Sneak Peek: See What's New in Microsoft Office 2010 - Wed, 05/05/2010 - 12:00 p.m.

Webinar: "[Developmental Students: Using Hybrid Coursework to Improve Electronic Literacy](#)," recording available. Please contact Susan Andrien (susan.andrien@marin.edu) or Ali Klinger (alisa.klinger@marin.edu) for details.

DE in the News

- "[Distance Education's Rate of Growth Doubles at Community College](#)," by Mary Helen Miller
- "[Adapt or Decline](#)," by Anya Kamenetz

Looking for Online Learning Objects, Instructional Inspiration, or DE Clearinghouses?

- "[Teaching Online for the First Time -- The Quick Guide: 10 Best Practices](#)," by Dr. Judith V. Boettcher
- "[Online Educators' Resources](#)" from Mt. San Jacinto College: Be sure to click on "6 Quick Tips for Beginning Retention," if you are teaching an online course this summer.
- "[How to Redesign a Course for Hybrid Delivery](#)," by Jack Prostko and John Fritz
- "[Take a Walk on the Wired Side](#)," by Rob Weir
- "[Suggestions for Faculty Preparing to Teach Online Material: Best Practice Resources](#)," by Jace Hargis
- "[Best Practices](#)," from *eLearn Magazine: Education and Technology in Perspective*
- "[The Dangers and Pitfalls of Communicating with Students or What NOT to do When Communicating with Students on the Internet](#)," by Dr. Judith V. Boettcher
- [ESL Slideshares](#), by Buthaina Al Othman
- [Online Teaching Activity Index](#), from Illinois Online Network: Supporting Online Education Throughout the World
- "[Forum Network](#)," free online lectures from PBS and NPR
- "[Online Teaching/Learning](#)," from Learning Support Centers in Higher Education
- "[Academic Earth: Online Degrees and Video Courses from Leading Universities](#)"

Timeline

Do you want to go hybrid or take your course online?

- Contact your chair and dean to express your interest. Because your department is working with a limited number of units to cover all instruction, discuss with them the best semester in which to offer an online section of the course you have in mind.
- Register for training so that you can learn how to create your course: <http://www.onefortraining.org/home>
- Ask Steve Dodson (7473) for a Blackboard demo shell, username, and password: steve.dodson@marin.edu
- Begin developing and designing your course in Blackboard.
- Fulfill the Curriculum Committee requirements for online course approval and meet its deadlines.
- Remind your department chair to get your course into the schedule, when the appropriate time approaches for its launch.

Conference, Program, and Publication Calls

- The [MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching \(JOLT\)](#) is a peer-reviewed, online publication addressing the scholarly use of multimedia resources in education. The Journal is seeking manuscripts; to be considered for the Fall 2010 issue, manuscripts must be submitted by May 15, 2010. Click [here](#) for details.
- [2010 Online Teaching Conference](#): "The OTC focuses on the integration of online instruction throughout K-20 education. The conference will be held at San Diego City College, June 17-18, 2010. Virtual attendance is still free of charge, but you need to register."
- [The 3rd Annual Emerging Technologies for Online Learning Symposium](#) will be held at The Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, July 20-23, 2010.
- [Call for Manuscripts: Academic Exchange Quarterly](#), independent double-blind-peer-reviewed print journal, welcomes submissions that contribute to the effective instruction and learning regardless of level or subject. Submission deadline is August 13, 2010.
- [The Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications](#) - WCET's 22nd Annual Conference will be held in La Jolla, November 11-13, 2010.

Thanks for Sharing!

Peggy Dodge (Early Childhood Education) has been doing research on student response systems (SRS) for use with her ECE students. As she explains in her requests for instructional equipment, "...current research describes the benefits of active learning approaches. Clickers, or student response systems, are a technology used to promote active learning. Most research on the benefits of using clickers in the classroom has shown that students become engaged and enjoy using them." According to Peggy, "...all ECE students taught in smart classrooms (approximately 300 students per semester) would potentially benefit from using this technology."

For more about student response systems, see:

- ["Clickers in the Classroom: An Active Learning Approach,"](#) by Margie Martyn
- ["How Interactive Technology Can Help Minority Students Learn,"](#) by Mary Helen Miller
- ["Students Who Use 'Clickers' Score Better On Physics Tests,"](#) from the *ScienceDaily*

Got Something to Share?

Send best practices, suggestions, and web links for inclusion in DE@COM to alisa.klinger@marin.edu.

Must See

- YouTube: ["April Fools: Math Class Shadow"](#)
- YouTube: ["2009 Halloween Math Class v2"](#)
- ["Rapping Math Teachers Bring It Students get schooled in math lessons put to a hip-hop beat,"](#) by Malaika Costello-Dougherty
- ["Passive Aggressive Library Signs"](#)
- Tweed, ["We Love These College Videos"](#)
- YouTube: ["Symphony of Science - The Poetry of Reality \(An Anthem for Science\)"](#)
- YouTube: ["Procastination: Spongebob Writes An Essay!"](#)

Best Practices—Personalize, Customize, and Colorize

- **Names** - Use students' names every time you address them in emails and in assessment or feedback areas of your course. Personalize all your announcements and discussion posts as well, addressing the whole class for such messages. Find something that works for you when you are addressing a group, such as "Hello Folks," "Dear Class," or "Fellow Members of Our Online Adventure in Learning." Whatever you decide, recognize that using names is just one way to create social presence in Cyberspace.
- **Subject Headings** - Use consistent, clear, and descriptive subject headings for added instructional value. Week, lesson, and unit numbers are much more instructive when they come with a brief and catchy hint of your topic. If you use dates as organizational headers, try adding a few verbal titles to supplement the numerical information. If you can add visuals to your document and folder descriptions, too, then you will aid your students' retention of information and navigation of your course site. If you are responding to a post with a generic subject header, then change the header for your reply post to model relevancy for your students. Descriptive subject headings will not only make finding posts and emails easier for everyone, but a collection of headings in a discussion area can also often provide a mini-review of your class's collective wisdom.
- **Color** - Use color when designing your course site, but do so with caution. The rule of thumb is no more than three colors, with the body text in a contrasting color from your background. Not all colors appear the same on every viewer's screen, so stick to the ones that tend to display best: black, blue, red. Bolds and brights tend to display better than pale yellows, pinks, and greens.

Must Follow

- YouTube: "[A Welcome to Strategies for Managing the Online Workload](#)," by Larry Ragan
- [Podcast Connection to HOST](#): Lawrence C. Ragan, Director of Instructional Design and Development, Penn State's World Campus Strategies for Managing the Online Workload
- "[Welcome to ProfHacker](#)," by Prof. Hacker: "ProfHacker, an online community created by professors for professors—and anyone else in higher education—offers tutorials and commentary about ways to better use technology in college teaching and research." Scroll down to the bottom for the top 20 posts (by hits) since July 2009.
- "[Teaching College Math](#)," by Maria H. Andersen
- [eLearn Magazine](#): Education and Technology in Perspective
- George Siemens's "[ELEARNSPACE: Learning, Networks, Knowledge, Technology, Community](#)"
- Scott MacLeod's "[Anthropological Research and Ethnography of Informational Technology](#)"