

# LTC Newsletter

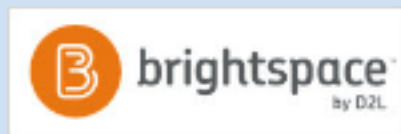
November 2016



**G-13 Still Hall**

**Can't stop in? Make a "virtual" appointment - we'll meet with you online! Call x1848 or [email ltcsupport](#) to schedule.**

**FALL VENANGO Office Hours:  
8:30 - 4:30pm  
Dec. 1, 5, 15, 19**



## **D2L NEWS AND TIPS**

• **CONTINUOUS DELIVERY** - D2L Upgrades occur monthly; Please view the [November Learning Environment upgrades here](#). Highlights are

## **"Everything is in the Syllabus"**

Does this phrase resonate with you? While it may be true that learning outcomes, course schedules, policies and faculty contact information; i.e., "everything" is - and should be - in your syllabus, it is

also true that as a university community we serve a number of students whose learning skills are less than proficient. While the syllabus is a necessary element of any course, chunking some of the information in modules within your D2L course site - whether you teach online or on the ground - can help make the learning tasks more manageable and help put emphasis on the most important details.

In a July edition of Faculty Focus, Aubree Evans wrote about viewing your course through the eyes of your students to gain new perspective on what students need in the context of their daily learning. This is not to say that faculty are expected to hand-hold (even more) or reduce student responsibility. Accountability for their learning is most definitely the student's challenge and part of the academic maturation process.

With the semester winding down, the upcoming break is a good time to reconsider and re-evaluate learning from the student perspective. To better understand the student point of view, Evans suggests asking three people: yourself as a novice, your students, and instructional support staff.

Read the full entry entitled "[Three Perspectives to Invigorate Your Teaching](#)". In brief, Evans reminds educators to first remember what it is like to learn something completely unfamiliar (pickle-ball anyone?) and second, suggests ways to dialogue with your students. Third, call upon your university resources! The Learning Technology Center is staffed with two instructional designers who are not only tech-savvy, but trained to think about learning from a student's vantage point and address a range of instructional design challenges.



described in the newsletter.

• **D2L AWARDS** - The Center for Career and Professional Development and the LTC recently collaborated on a project using the new awards tool in D2L. Students who participate in the CCPD's professional series can earn badges in one of four different ways. The badges are tracked within D2L. Some instructors award credit to their students who participate in the professional development series. Consider using the D2L awards tool in your course for such things as membership in professional organizations, attendance at special events, as well as any kind of achievement imaginable. Contact the Learning Technology Center for 1:1 assistance and consultation about your potential awards project. Get a head start on the "how-to" by viewing the [Awards documentation on D2L's resource site](#).

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## ABOUT

*The LTC newsletter is devoted to the support of instructional technology in teaching and learning at Clarion University. The LTC provides instructional design ideas and teaching strategies to assist faculty in course development.*

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## STAFF

**Darla Ausel**  
*LTC Manager,  
Instructional Designer*

In addition, please remember that LTC staff are available daily during the semester break and would love to help you invigorate your course! For those of you teaching during the winter intersession, let us review your online course from the perspective of your students. Please, stop by G-13 Still Hall to plan a course consult or discuss a specific instructional challenge. Sometimes, all it takes is a conversation to get started!

## D2L Continuous Delivery Upgrades -



## November Highlights

The latest D2L Continuous Delivery release took place on November 18. Please remember that Continuous Delivery updates happen in the background approximately the third Friday of every month. Among several tool improvements in the November release (version 10.6.7) are those noted below:

- **HTML Editor - Copy and paste:**

Users can now copy and paste content from a Microsoft Word document or HTML source and the content retains the look and feel of the source document. This feature implements item D2627 from the Product Idea Exchange (PIE)\*.

- **Intelligent Agents - 3 new replace strings:**

Three new strings are available to use when composing the email sent with an intelligent agent. The new strings pertain to Last login and Last access dates for courses.

\* Since approximately 30% of D2L's product development comes directly from the [PIE, become a member of the D2L Community](#) to add your product ideas and comments.

## Using Blackboard Collaborate Recordings in Your D2L Courses?



If you have lectures, meetings, or presentations captured using Blackboard

Collaborate Web Conferencing, plan now to work with the Learning Technology Center to publish the recordings in a variety of formats for continued use.

*Why?* The current version of Blackboard Collaborate Web Conferencing will be replaced by the end of June 2017. Since the recordings are hosted by the vendor, they will not be available for playback until they are downloaded. The download must be done

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## CONTACT the LTC

### Learning Technology Center

G-13 Still Hall  
[ltechsupport@clarion.edu](mailto:ltechsupport@clarion.edu)  
814-393-1848  
[www.clarion.edu/ltc](http://www.clarion.edu/ltc)

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using a Blackboard tool to convert the recording into a usable format.

The LTC will manage this conversion for you. Please contact us at x1848 for more information.

## Clickers in the Classroom

If you are thinking about using clickers in a spring course, you can still add them to your required materials list. Contact the LTC for a user demo, software/receiver installation for the classroom where you will be teaching, and to pick up an instructor clicker kit.

## D2L Course Purge Summer 2017...

In accordance with the PASSHE System-wide Course Retention Policy we must periodically purge old courses from D2L. Planning is underway for the purge of D2L courses from Fall 2010 through Spring 2012. The course deletion process will take place after the Spring term ends in May 2017 with an exact semester schedule and removal date to be announced later. Faculty will have significant lead time to export course content and back-up student records as needed.



As you may recall, the export of course content *does not include* user generated data ( such as gradebook entries, discussion board posts, student assignment/dropbox submissions, Campus Pack content, Collaborate archives, etc.)

If you wish to get a jump on the back-up process, please see the [step-by-step instructions for exporting course content and saving student data](#).

Course purge dates and additional information will follow in a Spring 2017 newsletter. As always, please contact the LTC if you have any questions or concerns.