LTC Newsletter

October 2016
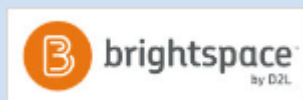
G-13 Still Hall

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

xxxxx

brightspace by D2L

D2L NEWS AND TIPS

• **Venango Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30**
Oct. 10, 20, 24
Nov. 3, 7, 17, 21
Dec. 1, 5, 15, 19

• **CONTINUOUS DELIVERY** - Upgrades occur monthly with no downtime; Please preview the UPCOMING Learning EnvIronmnet upgrades here

LTC/Partners Summer Retreat

In August, the Learning Technology Center in collaboration with Partners in Teaching, Learning and Assessment hosted a two-day professional development "re-boot" camp/retreat called **Designing for Engagement: Context, Connectedness, and Collaboration**

The hands-on sessions focused on pedagogical strategies to enrich student learning experiences. Faculty worked specifically on a poster designed to help plan and refine strategies to improve a project or problem area in a course.

Faculty presented on a variety of topics inlcuding: Who are our students? Melissa Downes, Universal Design for Learning 101 - Process and rhetoric, Jeanne Slattery; What is engagement? (Clarion student self-assessment study) Leah Chambers; Teamwork as engagement, Rich Lane. Additional topics included collaborative approaches to engagement using various technologies and strategies with presentations by Nancie Hunter, Jim Rose, Ellen Foster and Bell O'Neil. Darla Ausel and Sue Homan presented on Instructional strategies: opportunities in D2L and Universal Design for Learning methods and tools. Additional discussions focused on Engaging online students with Lynne fleisher, and Game Based Learning with Eric Zeglen of the Dixon Center in Harrisburg.

Follow-up sessions will be held for re-boot camp participants throughout the 2016-2017 academic year.

What's New?

While infrastructure enhancements were happening all around campus this summer, the LTC was busy with several projects. The implementation of two new tools to the Brightspace/D2L Learning Environment was completed, and in August, as outlined above, we teamed up with Partners in Teaching, Learning and Assessment to host a successful faculty retreat. In addition, the state system completed the RFP process for a Learning Management System provider.

New D2L Tools - Wiggio and Awards

The addition of two tools that will facilitate group work and motivate and engage learners was implemented in the Learning Environment. Designed primarily as a student collaboration tool, Wiggio is integrated within D2L through the course Ciommunication tab in the nav bar. No additional login is needed.

Wiggio resembles social media and has three main areas: a "Feed" for communication, a "Folder" for content, and a "Calendar" for scheduling meetings and events. Users can hold group discussions, create tasks, conduct polls , share calendars and schedules, upload and manage group files, and communicate using live conference calls, video conferences, chat rooms, texts, emails, and voice mail.

Please see the Wiggio reference puide for instructors and Wiggio documentation for students for more information.

The **Awards** tool has also been made available in D2L. The Awards tool will enable instructors to provide two types of merit-based awards to students - Badges and Certificates. Both are based on criteria determined by the instructor. Awards can engage and motivate learners in recognition of accomplishments through activities designed to help learners succeed in a course or program. Badges or certificates earned by students at the organization level can be viewed by the student's instructors. Certificates and Badges are similar, except that certificates include a .pdf that users can print and include an official "statement" of certification.

As we are in the beginning use-case phase, feel free to contact the Learning Technology Center for 1:1 assistance about your awards project. To learn more about awards, view the Awards documentation on D2L's resource site.

D2L to Remain LMS provider

With the pending expiration of the PA State System D2L contract June 30, 2017 recall that the System coordinated a process over the past year to research, release, and review an RFP for a new Learning Management System (LMS). That process started with a PASSHE LMS Task Force that surveyed all PASSHE faculty to collect desired LMS functionality the n proceeded to a State System RFP Writing and Evaluation Committee.

While Clarion did not have a direct representative on the PASSHE

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RFP Committee, the majority of the feedback that was shared locally during the Task Force discussions was a general preference to remain with D2L and an emphasis for the proposals to include the cost to convert content from our existing D2L courses to a new LMS.

An evaluation of the RFP reviews and contract options showed that D2L had the highest overall evaluation and lowest cost solution.

Clarion intends to stay with D2L as the LMS platform. The new 5-year contract will go into effect on July 1, 2017. While the final selection details are still pending, current feedback indicates that the majority of our sister PASSHE schools are also selecting D2L.

Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

● **Office 2016 - PowerPoint**

   Oct. 13 | 9:00 am
   Oct. 19 |

   Email LTC Support to register.

   This workshop will take place in 103 Still

● **Brightspace/D2L Awards**

   Oct. 18 | 9:30 am
   Oct. 21 | 3:00 pm

   Email LTC Support to register.

   This workshop will take place in 103 Still

Virtual Training by Appointment

Call the LTC to discuss the possibility of a virtual training appointment. We can provide web-based training on most university supported instructional technologies or work through an issue in your D2L course. Please call x1848 to discuss your training needs, or Email LTC Support to schedule an appointment.

*Please register for all webinars by emailing **LTC Support.** Please be sure to indicate the session, date, and time.*

You will receive a confirmation email for all registrations.