Blackboard Upgrade This Summer!

July 4, 2014 7pm - July 5, 2014 1pm, the district will be upgrading Blackboard from Service Pack 10 to Service Pack 13. During the upgrade, the Blackboard system will be UNAVAILABLE for all users. Formal email communications will be sent to faculty and students to remind you of the upgrade. The upgrade will allow us to resolve some “Blackboard bugs” and take advantage of some additional features, including:

- Number of attempts
- Timer
- Availability
- Force completion

**Accessibility Improvements**: Blackboard has made navigation more efficient for user by providing a Quick Links tool which allows a user to quickly locate any heading or section within any page in Blackboard and jump directly to it.

**Test Availability Exceptions**: Test availability exceptions are a set of new settings on the Test Options page, available only after the test is added to a content area. The additional test exceptions can be used to provide an accommodation to a disabled student, or provide accommodations for technology and language differences. Exceptions can be created for:

- Number of attempts
- Timer
- Availability
- Force completion

**Inline Grading for Assignments**: Instructors can view student-submitted files “inline,” meaning in the web browser, without requiring any plug-ins, applets, or client-side applications. Additionally, annotations tools are available as part of the inline viewer, enabling Instructors to provide feedback – comments, highlights, and even drawing/annotation – directly on the inline view of the document.

**Align Rubric Row Criteria to Goals**: Instructors can now align individual criteria listed in the row of a rubric to course goals, providing a more granular level of aligning a specific criterion to course goals using a rubric.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

**As Researchers Turn to Google, Libraries Navigate the Messy World of Discovery Tools**

"Many professors and students gravitate to Google as a gateway to research. Libraries want to offer them a comparably simple and broad experience for searching academic content. As a result, a major change is under way in how libraries organize information."

Library Consortium Tests Interlibrary Loans of e-Books

"Worried about security and sales, many publishers and vendors permit individual e-book chapters to be shared but don't routinely include the lending of whole e-books in library contracts. Even when licenses do allow e-book lending, libraries typically lack the technology to make it work."

Obama and Biden Promote $550-Million in New Job-Training Funds

"The president and vice president made a rare joint appearance on Wednesday to tout new federal funds for community colleges and apprenticeship programs."
Getting Ready for the Summer Semester & the End of the Spring Semester

Summer course shells are now available in Blackboard!

Below is a quick checklist of some administrative tasks to do at the end of the semester if you are using Blackboard for any part of your course.

Download your Gradebook

You can download your gradebook to keep an electronic copy as part of your record keeping process. The downloaded copy can be opened and managed in MS Excel or other spreadsheet programs.

More information on Downloading your gradebook

Archive and Export your Course

The export course feature creates a package of the course content that you can import and use to teach another course with the same content. The archive course feature creates a permanent record of a course including all the content and user interactions. Do Both!!

Remember after downloading the zip files to delete them from your course so the archived files don’t count towards your course quota!

More information on Exporting and Archiving

Course Copy

- Copy content from one course to another to save time on course development.

Link for more information on Course Copying

Submit a Help Desk Ticket for the following:

- Add a TA or other instructor to a Bb course shell
- Merge multiple courses into one course shell
- Any technical issues you are having with the system.

http://stac.sbccd.org

Turnitin Will Be Available This Fall!

- PeerMark facilitates the management of peer review exercises so students can evaluate and learn from one another’s work. It automates paper distribution, allows for anonymous reviews, and provides standard or customizable assessment questions.

Training Plan

The Distance Education department is collaborating with both campus’ Professional Development departments to develop a communication and training plan for faculty and students. Be on the lookout for the upcoming schedule.

Additional Resources

Additional resources provided by Turnitin and developed by the DE department will be shared with faculty through email and on the Teaching, Learning, and Technology website beginning Fall 2014.

http://turnitin.com/

Turnitin consists of 3 core services

- OriginalityCheck compares a paper’s text to a vast database of digital content.
- Grademark lets instructors provide feedback using drag-and-drop marks, voice comments, and rubrics. ETS® e-rater® technology is integrated with GradeMark to identify spelling, grammar, mechanics, usage and style errors. Instructors can track student views of the graded paper, customize and share comments and rubrics, track grades using a grade book, and assess students over time.
Teachlearnandtech.ning.com

We Are Building a Community of Practice!

The focus of the online community is distance education at San Bernardino Community College District. That focus is inclusive of instruction, student support, professional development, and technology integration. The discussion, sharing, and learning will be shaped and guided by you, the faculty.

Tools and Resources Available:

- Personal pages to share articles and resources with your colleagues
- News feed related to educational technology issues in higher education
- Direct link and calendar to personal development opportunities offered at the campuses
- Links to state-wide initiatives and resources related to instruction and online education
- Discussion boards to talk about instructional strategies, collaboration, and opportunities
- Interest groups to meet and collaborate with faculty across the district

May DE Workshops

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/1/2014</td>
<td>CHC – LRC110</td>
<td>1pm-2pm</td>
<td>Mobile Apps That Complement Your Desktop Software</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/7/2014</td>
<td>SBVC - LA208</td>
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<td>Open Lab</td>
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<td>5/22/2014</td>
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Complete DE Workshops and CC Confer information for the webinars can be found on the DE online portal: [http://teachlearnandtech.ning.com/de-calendar](http://teachlearnandtech.ning.com/de-calendar)