Supporting Faculty to Sustain Quality Online Courses Using Blackboard

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At a glance…

- St. Louis Community College is the largest community college system in Missouri
- Current student enrollment 32,500+ (doubles for non-credit and continuing education classes)
- Serves approximately 700 square miles
- Three main campuses – Florissant Valley, Forest Park, and Meramec
- Satellite education centers in the North, South, West, and Downtown St. Louis
- Culturally and socially diverse student population
Overview…

In this presentation we will address:

• Programs and initiatives for using Blackboard
• Development of online resources in addition to “traditional” resources
• Our roles and challenges to support faculty
• Lessons learned (the hard way!)
Where we fit in…

Senior Instructional Designers:

• Provide both technical and pedagogical support to faculty and staff
• Coordinate and publicize training activities
• Communicate new information and updates on Blackboard
• Serve on campus and district-wide technology related committees
Assessing faculty needs…

• Novice, intermediate and expert users require different levels of support and approaches to training.

• Follow up after training is critical.
Faculty Development Programs

- Fall and Spring program series
- Brochures
- Companion web sites
- Interim Institute
- Incentive programs: Learning circles, Extended & Released time projects
- House Calls
Addressing faculty needs...

- One-on-one, group, or classroom setting
- Hands-on, handouts, or online resources
Need for online resources…

• Simple, customizable, 24/7 availability
• Answer questions quickly and accurately
• Address varying levels of expertise
Our online resources...

Faculty Information Page
• Faculty FAQ
• Faculty Guide
• Blackboard information and forms
Our online resources...

Student resources:
- Student FAQ
- Student Guide
- Printable PDF file
SLCC “Best Practices”…

• See an example of a Raster Image Processing class with student assignments
• Public Speaking online
• Report Writing online
Ceramics 101

Heatwork Chart: Transformation of Ceramic Materials by Heat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kiln Color</th>
<th>Cone</th>
<th>°C</th>
<th>°C</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2650*</td>
<td>1400*</td>
<td>Porcelain, cone 10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2300*</td>
<td>1300*</td>
<td>Highfire/Alumina, cone 0-10, anagama/1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2200*</td>
<td>1300*</td>
<td>Mid-range glaze, cone 3-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rust</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1050*</td>
<td>1100*</td>
<td>Stoneware/Earthenware, cone 0-5, anagama/1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb's Tongue</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>1300*</td>
<td>1500*</td>
<td>Clay particles beginning to melt, bisque bisque temperature (cone 0-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Oxide</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>1300*</td>
<td>1500*</td>
<td>Iron oxide, cone 0-5, anagama/1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>1200*</td>
<td>1500*</td>
<td>1700*</td>
<td>Red heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Red</td>
<td>1650*</td>
<td>550*</td>
<td>800°</td>
<td>Flue gas reactions, cone 0-2, anagama/1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malachite</td>
<td>1650*</td>
<td>550*</td>
<td>800°</td>
<td>From 900-1000°C, characterizes salt glaze firing, red firing, anagama/1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turquoise</td>
<td>1000*</td>
<td>2200*</td>
<td>2200°</td>
<td>Carbon reacts with oxygen, cone 0-5, anagama/1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>212°</td>
<td>650°</td>
<td>650°</td>
<td>Wood converts to steam, expand clay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using a website within Blackboard to teach the steps in firing ceramics.
Using an animated interface – shows the breakdown of food into lipids, carbohydrates, and proteins.
Working through the negativity…

• Resistance to change ➔ educate and promote
• Communication ➔ reducing “after the fact” information through continuous communication
• Lack of REAL motivation to adopt technology ➔ initial time investment pays off quickly
• Territorialism ➔ work in progress 😊
• Most importantly ➔ positive feedback and reinforcement for every attempt (especially true for the novice user)
Conclusion…

• Blackboard requires on-going support and training.
• Resources must be kept simple, organized, and up-to-date.
• Working as a team has provided a wealth of resources – we each have our own expertise to offer.