

**UT TeleCampus Communiqué**  
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**IOL 2008**

UT TeleCampus will host the fourth annual Innovations in Online Learning conference in 2008 to celebrate and spotlight innovations developed by faculty, staff and students of The University of Texas System. Explore and share online teaching and learning in its many formats and functions. Join us in Austin, May 21 - 23, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake for fascinating dialog, discussion and discovery.

More information regarding IOL 2008 including the location and dates will be posted soon.

Please contact Marta Hubbard at 1-888-TEXAS 16 if you have questions.

**Blackboard Upgrade (and Outage) August 20 & 21**

**UTTC Blackboard installation will be unavailable from 8:00 a.m. Central Time on Monday, August 20 through 2:00 p.m. Central Time on Tuesday, August 21** while we upgrade from version 7.1.391.0 to version 7.2.383.0. This is a minor upgrade, which will provide many bug fixes. The upgrade will also add these new features:

- A faculty member can include a comment for a student for any grade in the gradebook.
- When an announcement is created, the faculty member may also send the announcement as a broadcast email.
- A new course email tool that allows for mail to be sent to all student users (and only student users).
- The Messages tool has been improved to have a more streamlined workflow and easier access to information.
- When using the email feature that allows you to select students, the students are now listed in alphabetical order by last name.
- When you receive an email from Blackboard, the name of the person who sent it is included (as well as the email address).
- Changes have been made to the user interface in the discussion board. The thread detail page can display the entire thread. When a user replies to a post they are returned to the last highlighted post, or the first post of the thread (if they were at the final post). You can also search within date ranges. Discussion board grades are now included in gradebook calculations by default. The thread subscription feature has also been improved. Replies to every message can trigger emails, and links in the emails are shorter URLs.
- An Early Warning System has been added. This feature allows the faculty member to define rules that monitor positive and negative trends for individual students based on item score or grade, item due date, and/or course attendance. A faculty member can view how students are performing and can quickly and easily email specific students. These communications are tracked in a log. This feature can also be integrated into the gradebook.

Information on the upgrade is available at

<http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1514,83.html>. This page will be updated, if

needed, during the Blackboard outage. For additional information regarding the upgrade, outage, or newly-added features, contact the Student and Faculty Services staff at <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu>.

**Register Now for Fall Faculty Training**

Course development and management training will be held for faculty in Austin on October 18 and 19. Training is required for all faculty who receive course development funds from the TeleCampus. We also recommend that faculty teaching via the TeleCampus return to training every few years, to pick up new ideas and information. Participants complete self-paced online training (4-6 hours during a 2 week period), and then meet for two days as a group. Specifics about the training, including lodging recommendations, are available at <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,589,84,72.html>, where you will also find the online registration form. Please be sure to make your hotel reservations early, as hotel rooms at the state rate may be limited. For additional information, contact Kathryn Roberts at <mailto:kroberts@utsystem.edu>.

**Summer Census Numbers**

Eighty-one faculty members taught 106 courses through the UT TeleCampus during Summer 2007. Enrollment totaled 2,671. The largest programs were GenEd with 573 enrollments, Criminal Justice (CCJO) with 456 enrollments, MBA with 275 enrollments, and Literacy Studies with 224 enrollments. The most active campuses were UT Arlington with 884 enrollments, UT Permian Basin with 464 enrollments, UT Brownsville with 448 enrollments, and UT El Paso with 393 enrollments. For more information on TeleCampus enrollment data, contact Susan Smith at <mailto:ssmith@utsystem.edu>.

**Fall 2007 Courses Have Begun**

The UT TeleCampus is offering more than 190 courses this fall. The first courses began on August 13 for UT Health Science Center at Houston. Many of the students taking fall classes via the TeleCampus will begin on August 27 when UTA, UTB, UTEP, UTPA and UTMB begin classes. The academic calendar for courses offered through the TeleCampus is available at <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,0,76,81.html>. For more information on Fall course offerings, contact Student and Faculty Services at <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu>.

**Re:Mark Being Discontinued**

The Re:Mark paper mark-up tool is being discontinued by the company. While it is currently available within the UTTC Blackboard installation, we encourage you NOT to use it, as we do not know how long it will be available. We do not believe that a large number of faculty are using this tool, but if you are and would like for us to see if we can find a similar resource for you, please let us know that by sending an email describing your needs to <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu>.

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