



**UT TeleCampus Communiqué**  
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**New Website Coming Soon**

The UT TeleCampus will launch its newly redesigned website mid-February. As we get closer to the launch date, look for detailed announcements posted in the portal, listservs, and on the front page of the UTTC. The new website offers users more powerful functionality and easier navigation in addition to a streamlined look and feel. The project has involved three major aspects:

- Changing the “look” of the website into a simpler layout, with each section organized in an easy-to-access format.
- Reorganizing content for improved usability.
- Converting to a Content Management System interface for creating, editing, approving and delivering website content.

Take a peek at the front page and tell us what you think!



## **Spring Faculty Training**

TeleCampus Course Development and Management Training will be held Monday February 23 and Tuesday, February 24. **Attendance both days is required for faculty who have received TeleCampus course development funding and have not previously attended the training; it is recommended that faculty attend training nine to 12 months prior to the first offering of their TeleCampus courses.** Training is held twice annually, during the Fall and Spring semesters. Veteran faculty and course development staff are always welcome. Details including time, locations, and lodging can be found at the website link below. The agenda will be posted to the TeleCampus website and the Faculty Organization in Blackboard. Join us to learn the latest on course development and management, and TeleCampus services and technology (including the Blackboard courseware platform). If you plan to attend, please register by completing the form at <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/facultyservices/training.html>

For additional information, contact Terry Barksdale, Student and Faculty Services at <mailto:tbarksdale@utsystem.edu>

## **Every Child, Every Advantage/TRACK**

The TAKS Readiness and Core Knowledge (TRACK) project will launch February 16, 2004. TRACK is comprised of diagnostic tests and learning materials in the subjects tested at the 11th grade level on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The informational website for TRACK already is available at [www.track.uttelecampus.org](http://www.track.uttelecampus.org).

The TRACK diagnostic items in all subjects will be piloted with approximately 3,000 Texas high schoolers in 20 school districts January 26-February 6, 2004. Diagnostic items that do not perform well will be replaced prior to the official TRACK launch.

TRACK team leaders and new reviewers hired in each subject area of Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts continue to locate and score learning materials. For the learning objects that cannot be found already developed, storyboards for new learning materials will be written by contract reviewers and produced by UTTC course development specialists and programmers. TRACK will continue to grow more robust throughout the three years of the project.

TRACK is one tool districts can use to meet the requirements of SB 1108, which requires a personal graduation plan for any high school student who fails one of the TAKS tests in 8th grade, or who will take five years to graduate, as determined in 9th grade. The law requires diagnostic information be included in

the plan, and online instruction.

Presentations about TRACK will be made to Austin ISD curriculum directors January 9, Education Service Center executive directors January 12, superintendents in the Texas School Alliance January 13, attendees at the Administrators MidWinter Conference January 26-28, and February 15 at the TASSP Assistant Principals Conference. Please stop by the UTTC booth at MidWinter if you are in Austin.

### **Blackboard Organizations**

The Faculty Organization in Blackboard is active for spring. Faculty and TAs teaching this semester have access to the organization from the Blackboard portal. The Student and Faculty Services group will limit emails to faculty and will instead announce important information inside the Blackboard Organization. We will also launch the Blackboard Student Organization with a great deal of relevant information for both new and continuing students. This will include the Student Handbook, Smarthinking login, Technical Support and Digital Library. Although faculty do not have access to the student organization, you can review information being provided to your students in the Student Information area of the faculty organization. Questions related to any of the material found in the Blackboard organizations can be forwarded to <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu>

### **TIS Financial Aid Interface**

Final testing is near completion on the new interface in the TeleCampus Information System (TIS) for financial aid, veteran's affairs, and Hazelwood officers. Many features have been developed to enable campus officials to better track benefit recipients and allow for more timely enrollment notifications. The Student and Faculty Services staff asks that each component confirm or provide a UTTC Financial Aid liaison, and provide the name of a UTTC Hazelwood benefits liaison. This information will be included on the TeleCampus website and will be used to create new accounts for staff members. The chief financial aid officer for the campus should send confirmation of the aid liaison to <mailto:telecampus.utsystem.edu>. For questions related to the new interface, contact Tasha Davis at <mailto:tdavis@utsystem.edu>

### **New Student Services Representative**

The Student and Faculty Services group at UTTC welcomes our newest member, Christian Pfeiffer. Christian grew up in Austin, and is a graduate of UT Austin with a degree in Communication Studies. She comes to us from the Office of State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos where she was a Legislative Aide. Prior to that, she worked for the Travis County Democratic Party where she was a Primary Director and then an Event Coordinator. Christian will share responsibilities with the current staff in supporting new and current students, and will also work closely with the TRACK initiative.

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