

UT TeleCampus Communiqué
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UTTC Turns Seven

First launched in May of 1998, the UT TeleCampus celebrates its seventh birthday this month. Over the years UTTC has grown exponentially in course offerings and enrollments. We thank the UTTC community for these seven successful years of operation. Check out these UTTC milestones: <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1254.html>.

TRACK Reaches Diverse Market

As evidence of its popularity, TRACK (TAKS Readiness and Core Knowledge) received more than 3.7 million hits from 12,000 individual students in the one week prior to the final TAKS administration in April. Since January more than 45,000 students went into TRACK taking more than 70,000 sample tests and exploring the vast array of dynamic learning tutorials.

Usage was spread across the state and achieved the goal of leveling the field of economic and technological advantage. Rich and poor counties had high TRACK usage. The county with the highest usage was Harris County (with Houston ISD) as more than 6,500 students in the county used TRACK this year. One of the poorest counties in the state (and listed among the 100 poorest counties in the U.S. based on per capita income) is Cameron County. Cameron had the 7th highest usage by county with more than 2,000 student users.

See attached charts for a clear picture of the demographics of TRACK users. The charts show:

- Student-created demographics (while anonymous by name) indicate that 38 percent of TRACK users were Hispanic, 37 percent Anglo/White, 18 percent African American and 7 percent "other" ethnic group.
- While most students identified English as the language spoken most frequently at home (81 percent), 16 percent said Spanish was the language spoken most frequently at home. Another three percent chose "other" indicating a third language at home.
- Most students using TRACK used it prior to taking their first TAKS test, with 82 percent saying they had not yet taken the test at the time they entered TRACK. Twelve percent had taken the test once and six percent had taken the test more than once.
- Males and females used TRACK fairly evenly with 53 percent identifying as female and 47 percent as male.

CEO Update

The course listing in the UTTC professional development catalog, CEO (Career Enhancement Online), continues to grow. Online courses are now listed by UT Austin, UT Southwestern Medical Center, UT Health Science Center Houston, and UT San Antonio. MD Anderson Cancer Center will be listing courses soon as well. The CEO system allows professional development students to register and pay for courses and course materials entirely online. Courses can be date-or subscription-based and can be open enrollment or require campus approval. The courses currently listed are hosted by the UT TeleCampus in Blackboard or by the campus listing the course. If you are interested in listing courses in CEO, contact Rob Robinson at <mailto:rrobinson@utsystem.edu>. Go to <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/forms/ceo.html> for more information.

Plagiarism Detection Pilot Update

Thank you to everyone who tried the Blackboard-integrated version of SafeAssignment during the Spring term. If you have feedback on SafeAssignment and have not provided it to us yet, please do so. During the month of June, we will have access to the Blackboard-integrated versions of both SafeAssignment and TurnItIn. If you would be willing to try both and provide comparative feedback on them, we would greatly appreciate your help and input. Our goal is to select a vendor for this service beginning with the Fall semester. To help with the selection process or for more information, contact Lori McNabb at <mailto:lmcnabb@utsystem.edu>.

Bookstore Information Requested from Fall Instructors

Faculty teaching in the Fall 2005 semester have received an email requesting detailed information about their course materials. If you are an instructor for a UTTC Fall 2005 course, please respond to this request for information by June 1, 2005. Doing so will assure that your students receive accurate and timely information about required and optional materials for your course. If you have questions about the UTTC Bookstore, please contact Terry Barksdale, <mailto:tbarksdale@utsystem.edu>, or 512-499-4261.

UTTC Online Evaluation System

The UT TeleCampus Online Evaluation System saw its biggest increase in student participation in end of semester evaluations this spring with an overall 43% response rate for all the institutions combined. This is a big improvement from previous semesters and we credit individual faculty involvement in soliciting evaluation feedback from their students. There were several faculty with 100% and a few more with over 90% response rates. The institution with the highest response rate was UT Tyler with 58%, and the two highest programs were the Kinesiology and MBO with 67% and 62% respectively. There were still about 9 courses with zero response rates which brought down the averages for everyone. The goal is to have at least a 50% response per class.

The TeleCampus encourages maximum feedback from students as it provides the faculty and institutions with valuable information about the online learning experience and areas in which instruction and services could be improved.

Individual faculty end of semester evaluation results are held by the person designated by your Vice President for Academic Affairs to collect and process according to local policies and procedures. Please contact your campus representative below to get your results.

UTA – Janis Walkup, ext 2104
UT Austin - Chuck Gaede, 471 3509
UTB - Cindy Lerma, ext 6564
UTD - Lawrence Redlinger, ext 6188
UTEP - Pablo Arenaz, ext 5725
UTPA - George Avellano, ext 3661
UTPB - Doug Hale, ext 2872
UTSA – Doug Atkinson, ext 4709
UTT - Sherri Whatley, ext 7247
UTMB - Poldi Tschirch, ext 6243
UTHSCH - Terry Rives, ext 3119
UTHSCSA – Ida Garcia, ext 2312
UTSWMCD – Judy Davis, ext 1515

For more information contact Frank Gonzalez at fgonzalez@utsystem.edu.

Close of Spring and Beginning of Summer

All Spring courses have ended and campus registrars are working to send student transcripts to one another. Faculty with students with incompletes should contact us at telecampust@utsystem.edu to make arrangements for course access for the students. Summer registration continues and the courses are beginning (see the academic calendars at <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,0,76,81,html> for campus-specific information). The TeleCampus is offering 68 courses this summer (up from 54 in Summer 2004).

Academic Affairs Committee meetings

The Kinesiology Online program had an Academic Affairs Committee meeting on April 28-29 in Austin. The MBA Online program had an Executive and Academic Affairs Committee meeting on May 5 in Austin. Notes from the meetings will be posted on the committee pages in the program area of the UTTC website.

Advertising Update

UTTC programs are advertised in the following locations during the month of May. **Please note that some placements are booked year round and will appear each month. For example, we index once for the year with searchable databases.** To make a suggestion, please email Jennifer Rees at jrees@utsystem.edu.

- Alamo Cinema Calendar Guide
- Alcalde Magazine
- All Star Directories (AllBusinessSchools, AllCriminalJusticeSchools, AllEducationSchools, AllNursingSchools)
- Ameriforce Texas Military Relocation Guide
- ASTD (American Society for Training & Development) Link eNewsletter
- ATPE (Association of Texas Professional Educators) News Magazine

- Degree.net
- Distance-Educator.com
- GetEducated.com
- Google Adwords
- Gradschools.com
- Insight Magazine (Texas Association of School Administrators)
- JustColleges.com
- Longhorn Sports Athletic Program
- NewsweekDistanceLearning.com
- Online University Consortium
- Peterson's Distance Learning Guide
- Prep Illustrated Magazine
- Policetraining.net
- Sloan-C.org
- Texas Monthly Magazine
- TexasMonthly.com
- Texas Nursing Magazine
- Texas Study Magazine (Texas Association of Secondary School Principals)
- The Classroom Teacher Magazine (Texas Classroom Teachers Association)
- Tribal College Journal
- WorldWideLearn.com

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Chair of the Board, United States Distance Learning Association
www.usdla.org