

**UT TeleCampus Communiqué**  
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**UTTC Turns Nine**

This year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> birthday for the UT TeleCampus. We were created in May of 1998 and launched our first online courses in 1999. During that time we have:

- served more than 49,500 enrollments,
- added 300+ courses to our online course inventory,
- worked with 275+ faculty partners and teaching assistants
- and so much more.



**IOL – We'll see you soon in Austin!**

Next week, the third annual Innovations in Online Learning Conference will occur. We're looking forward to seeing you all there.

Here are a few important updates and reminders for all of you planning to attend:

**Registration**

If you haven't registered, it's time to do that. We'll need an accurate count of attendees to best serve you.

**Pre-conference Workshops**

Please peruse the updated workshop information and let Margaret Miller know if you'd like to change your existing reservations. If you haven't notified us of your workshop choices, please RSVP.

**Bat Boat**

This fabulous and fun dinner cruise is still accepting reservations for just \$25 per person. Contact Margaret Miller for details.

### Keynotes and Sessions

Anyone interested in the digital natives applying to college now will find our keynote with Richard Sweeney and his panel of young millennials informative and entertaining. Mark Milliron will help us look at the implications and issues surrounding the search for insight in the world of education.

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### **U.S. Distance Learning Association Awards**

As part of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, the U.S. Distance Learning Association presented its 2007 Distance Learning Awards this week in Kansas City. The UT TeleCampus and its partner faculty were presented awards in three of the categories: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Best Practice, Best Practice for Distance Learning Programming, and Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Best Practice Award – Higher Education** was presented to the UT TeleCampus. This award is given to agencies, institutions, or companies that show outstanding leadership in the field of distance learning. The award recognizes pioneering organizations in the field that have changed distance learning, as well as new organizations that have challenged existing practice by developing new and innovative solutions for distance learning instruction and employee training programs.

**Best Practice for Distance Learning Programming** was presented to Caryl Segal, UT Arlington, for the American Judicial System course she teaches via the UT TeleCampus. This award recognizes courses or programs that have designed and delivered outstanding and comprehensive best practices related to interactivity, use of technology, design and assessment.

**Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching** was presented to Dr. Rebekah Nix, UT Dallas, for her work with the Master of Arts in Teaching Science Education online program offered via UTTC. This award is given to outstanding individuals whose programs demonstrate extraordinary achievements in scholarly research and writing, leadership, and service, including long term contributions that enhance and create a better understanding of distance learning for teaching or training environments.

Nomination packets for these and other awards are created by the Communication Services Department as part of their role in promoting awareness of interest in the programs and services offered by the UT TeleCampus.

Join us in celebrating this substantial recognition for our collective efforts to provide the very best in online education!

### **UT4Me**

Check out the latest edition of UT4Me, the online newsletter focuses on stories of interest to our community of faculty, students and staff. Some highlights from this issue include:

- UTTC and the THECB Texas Course Redesign Project
- Student Demographics for Spring 2007
- Meet the Communication Services (CS) Department

Find out more: <http://www.ut4me.org>

### **Spring 2007 Faculty Survey**

At the end of every long semester faculty who deliver courses through the UTTC are asked to complete a short survey about their experiences during the semester. This anonymous survey includes questions on support, training, technology, and other related areas. Faculty who are teaching this semester have received the URL for the survey by email. The spring survey is scheduled to close May 23. Please contact Frances Nash at [fnash@utsystem.edu](mailto:fnash@utsystem.edu) with any questions.

### **Survey: Developing Ethical Environments in Online Courses**

Graduate students from St. Edward's University ([www.stedwards.edu](http://www.stedwards.edu)), working in collaboration with the TeleCampus, are investigating ways in which a faculty member can create a community of integrity in an online course. Please help by sharing one idea at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=453743642056>. *This survey is intended for faculty and staff – anyone who has an idea!* And, if you provide your email address on the survey, you will receive the results of the study when it is complete. Thank you!

### **Get Started Postcard Mailing**

UTTC Getting Started postcards will be mailed to students enrolled in summer courses beginning this week. We expect to send out approximately 1,400 postcards. The postcard is helpful to students before the semester starts as it directs them to a page on the UTTC website ([www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/getstarted](http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/getstarted)) containing helpful information that includes a getting started checklist, and links to the browser checker and technical support.

### **Mark Your Calendars for October 18-19 Faculty Training**

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Course Development and Management Training to be held in Austin on October 18 and 19, 2007. Join us to learn the latest on course development and management, as well as UT TeleCampus services and technology including the Blackboard courseware platform. It is recommended that faculty attend training nine to 12 months prior to the first offering of their first course through the TeleCampus. Veteran faculty are always welcome to attend, as are campus course development staff. Information about the agenda, registration, locations, and lodging recommendations will be announced in upcoming newsletter announcements. For additional information, contact Kathryn Roberts at [kr Roberts@utsystem.edu](mailto:kr Roberts@utsystem.edu).

### **UTTC Digital Library – Library Assignments Best Practices Review, Continued...**

This month, we continue a review of best practices for instructors to consider when designing information literacy (aka library) assignments in their online courses as presented at the IOL PreConference Library Workshop. These best practices work in any course, whether fully online, hybrid, or face to face. So whether you are interested in adding a new information literacy assignment to your course, or you want to enhance an existing assignment, these tips will be useful. If you have questions, please contact Terry Barksdale, UTTC Librarian, <mailto:tbarksdale@utsystem.edu> or 512/499-4261.

Best Practices for Effective Library Assignments, Number 11: Give a copy of your assignment to your librarian so they can be prepared when students ask for help. Best Practices courtesy of Michele Ostrow, UT Austin. To see a complete list of these recommendations, visit <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/faculty/creatassignment.html>.

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