

UT TeleCampus Communiqué
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UTTC Honored by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has recognized the UT TeleCampus with its annual Star Award. The UT TeleCampus was one of four higher education programs chosen for the award out of a field of 54 applicants. The annual award recognizes exemplary programs that help close educational gaps in the state. The TeleCampus was singled out for its extensive inter-campus collaboration with all 15 UT System institutions and its robust array of student services. "These programs are not only the best of the best in terms of effectiveness and efficiency at their own institutions, they also serve as models that can be replicated at other institutions to the benefit of the entire state," THECB Commissioner Raymund Paredes said in announcing the 2007 award winners on Oct. 30.

Innovations in Online Learning 2008

Mark Your Calendars
May 21-23, 2008
Austin, Texas
www.iolconference.org

Proposals are due January 31, 2008.

Registration is currently open, and there is limited space availability in the pre-conference workshops – REGISTER NOW to make sure you get a spot! Hope to see you there!

UTTC Website Redesign

We've been talking with you about a new website unveiling soon and we're getting close! The UT TeleCampus website redesign project will result in the launch of a revised site this December. The new site will employ a bolder design, and the restructuring of some information subsections to increase ease of access for site users. The site will also contain a searchable catalog of courses allowing students to search via an open search field, or by sorting by course, semester offered, course title or campus. A cross-departmental team is building the site in a newly-acquired Sitecore content management system. Here's a look at the new [homepage](#).

UTTC Participates in Race for the Cure

For the fourth consecutive year, the UT TeleCampus was a sponsor of the Austin Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. This year's race had more than 22,000 participants, not to mention the thousands of family and friends in attendance offering their support. On November 4th, we staffed a booth in the vendor tent promoting online programs to event attendees. Some UTTC staff also participated in the race.

New Program Announcement: Master of Science in Nursing

UT El Paso and the UT TeleCampus are launching a master's degree for nurse clinician educators. This important program trains licensed registered nurses to become educators and prepare tomorrow's workforce of nurses at a time when our state desperately needs them. The 36-hour program also includes two 9-hour graduate certificates that can be taken as part of the degree plan, or as stand alone certificates. Learn more about the [MSN](#).

UTTC Staff Exhibit Online Programs

In October, Communication Services promoted UTTC programs at the UT Austin Graduate School Day in Austin. Hundreds of UT Austin students made their way through the ballroom filled with more than 50

universities and colleges representatives and their displays. Our CS staff was also at work in the booth in Galveston as hundreds gathered for the Texas Physical Therapy Association annual conference. We spoke with folks there about IMPRINTS, our online physical therapy certificate program that trains licensed therapists to work in early childhood intervention environments. This month we were also at the CAST (Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching) convention here in Austin talking about our Master of Arts in Teaching Science Education online program from UT Dallas. The week after Thanksgiving we're back in the booth at TAHPERD, the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance during their statewide conference in Galveston. We'll be promoting the Master's in Kinesiology Online at that event.

Course Development and Accessibility

Course Development and Technology (CDT) sent a team to participate in this year's Accessible Internet Rally in Austin (AIR-Austin) where volunteers were assigned a non-profit organization for whom to build a fully accessible website in an 8 hour competition. CDT team members Jen Chance, Jenni Freeman, Jeremy Gordon and George Irwin were paired with the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society (AMBIS) and AMBIS web master, Donna Belk. In the weeks prior to the rally, the team met with Belk to come up with a design and approach strategy that would work for both groups, and on rally Saturday, coding started at 8am. Despite the ambitious plan, the UTTC team built more than 60 pages of the site that day. Belk and AMBIS were pleased, and the CDT team learned a lot about creating accessible web materials. The newly designed, fully accessible site is scheduled to launch in January at www.fcaambis.org.

Newest Courseware Development Team Member

We are extremely happy to announce that Brad Shaevel has accepted the position of Course Developer with the TeleCampus. Brad has worked closely with us over the past year as he handled content and programming responsibility for the TRACK project. Brad was graduated from James Madison University, and although he started as a fine art and graphic design student, a Psychology professor piqued his interest in the field of clinical psych and mental health, and Brad ended up completing graduate clinical training with a masters and ABD status in that discipline, followed by 5 years as the clinical director of a company helping adults integrate from state institutions into community living and day care facilities. Recently, Brad decided to pursue his lifelong passion for technology and graphic design and began designing CD interfaces for Harris Connect Publishing before moving to Austin last year.

Headline Writing Course Enhancement

Jenni Freeman works closely with the McKnight School of Journalism to develop their professional education courses for the Texas Press Association. While developing the latest course, "Headline Writing," in Blackboard, author/instructor Griffin Singer expressed interest in an interactive exercise that would mimic the sizing functions of popular desktop publishing software. In the real world of newspaper and magazine editing, using InDesign or QuarkXPress, the "head fits" are automatically set by text frames. Editors and writers type in a headline and immediately know whether it will fit or not. Prior to this, the course used a manual method of character counting. Jeremy Gordon designed a generic interactive exercise in Flash that is easily and quickly modified for any "head fit" width and height requirements desired, allowing Mr. Griffin to reuse the exercise and develop multiple drill-and-practice type assignments throughout the course.

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