

UT TeleCampus Communiqué
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UT TeleCampus Contacts Meeting

Designated UTTC Contacts (see attached list) met in Austin last week to discuss the UT System Strategic Plan, specifically the metrics regarding distance education. (See attached goals and metrics.) Discussions involved a review of UTTC services, quality initiatives, and an update from each campus. The primary focus of the meeting was an in-depth discussion about the metrics, and the challenges and potential outcomes for each. Attendees heard from Dr. David Prior, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, about current and future aspects of the TeleCampus, and met with Marge Knox regarding a System-wide look at the use of Blackboard and WebCT courseware management systems. Fourteen UT System institutions were represented at the meeting. For additional information about issues and outcomes of the UTTC Contacts meeting, email Rob Robinson at <mailto:rrobinson@utsystem.edu>.

UTTC Plans New Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program

On September 21, faculty and staff from UT Austin, UT Arlington, UT El Paso, UT Pan American, UT San Antonio and UT Tyler joined UTTC staff to discuss an exciting new project: an online Supplemental Instruction program in Algebra. We were also fortunate that Dr. Glen Jacobs, Executive Director, International Center for Supplemental Instruction, was able to attend the meeting and fully endorses the project. SI programs are designed to supplement some of the more challenging general education core courses. Key to these programs is the inclusion of peer facilitators who conduct non-mandatory review sessions and workshops. SI programs have been quite successful on campuses around the world. The TeleCampus will not be developing a program that will replace face-to-face SI programs on our campuses. Instead, we plan to create a program (with the help of campus faculty and staff) that will be an alternative to those that are already in place and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information about the SI project, email Darcy Hardy at <mailto:dhardy@utsystem.edu>.

2007 UTTC Annual Report – In the Mail

The 2007 UT TeleCampus Annual Report has arrived back from the printer and a copy is now on its way to your mailbox. Inside you will find great information about the UTTC, as well as interviews with members of the UTTC “family”. Please take a look and let us know what you think! For additional copies, email Jennifer Rees at <mailto:jrees@utsystem.edu>.

Organize your Research and Help your Students Organize theirs with RefWorks

RefWorks is a citation management software that allows you to organize your research, to format your references according to various citation styles like APA, MLA and more, and to output your references automatically. As a UTTC faculty member, you can access RefWorks anytime.

Simply login to the UTTC Blackboard system, and look for the RefWorks link in the News and Goods section of the faculty portal. RefWorks does not limit the number of accounts faculty can set up, allowing you to create an account for each UTTC class you teach and one for your

personal research! UTTC Students can configure one account to meet their needs. RefWorks also offers these functions:

- Create a personal database online - Store an unlimited number of records accessible from any computer on which you can access the UTTC course management system.
- Import references automatically from multiple databases - Search results from a wide variety of databases can be automatically exported into RefWorks with the click of a button.
- Organize and manage references - Sort and file references quickly and easily using folders and other tools.
- Share references - Using the Internet, easily collaborate with members of your own institution or globally with other researchers, faculty members, or students.
- Format bibliographies and manuscripts in seconds - Save hours of typing time and decrease the number of errors made when creating tedious bibliographies. Easily make changes to your paper and reformat in seconds.
- Export and import references between accounts tailored to various audiences/courses.

Want more details? See http://www.refworks.com/content/path_benefit/faqs.asp then contact Terry Barksdale at <mailto:uttclibrary@utsystem.edu>.

Spring TIS Registration Planned for Mid-October

UTTC is scheduled to open spring registration in the TeleCampus Information System (TIS) the week of October 15. Students admitted to any UT System campus may use the TIS to request registration in any course offered by a campus through the UTTC. Campus staff with TIS accounts will receive advance notice by email of the opening date. For information on TIS registration, contact Frances Nash at <mailto:fnash@utsystem.edu>.

Fall Semester Start-Up Connect-ED Pilot

UTTC piloted Connect-ED during the start of the Fall semester. Connect-ED enables school administrators to record, schedule, send, and track personalized voice messages to students. UTTC used the service to call 1,000 enrolled students on the first day of their class to remind them that they needed to login to their course that day. A follow-up survey was conducted, to which 168 students replied. Student input on this new communications tool was overwhelmingly positive. For information on Connect-ED or the pilot test performed at the start of the semester, contact Lori McNabb at <mailto:lmcnabb@utsystem.edu>.

UTEP Seeks Campus to Develop Courses

Bob Anders, Dean of the UTEP School of Nursing, is interested in seeing the following courses developed online:

1407 Introductory Chemistry

Course Description: Basic concepts relating to composition, structure, and transformation of matter. Satisfies the chemistry requirement for nursing.

1301 Public Speaking

Course Description: Introduction to the theory and practice of public speaking; the inventing, arranging, phrasing, and presenting of ideas to an audience. The complementary skills of speaking and listening are developed through criticism of speeches presented in class.

Both of these courses are required for his undergraduate degree programs, and they are required for other undergraduate degrees across the System as well. However, neither is currently offered online through the TeleCampus. If your campus is interested in receiving funding to develop either or both of these courses, please contact Darcy Hardy at <mailto:dhardy@utsystem.edu>.

Embedded Smarthinking Links Need to be Repaired in Courses

If you have a Smarthinking link embedded in course content, it is no longer working. Portal links, course tools links, and even course navigation links to Smarthinking should be fine. But, if you

have a link within a content area to this service, the link needs to be deleted and recreated. If you have your course set up in this way, we can fix this for you, as can your campus course development support staff. Please let us know if you need our help by sending an email to <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu>.

UT Austin adds PDO Courses

The UT Austin Thompson Conference Center has added four new courses to their offerings available through the UTTC PDO (Professional Development Online) system. The courses added to the Thompson Conference Center PDO offerings are Network Certification+; Microsoft Office Word Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3; Microsoft Windows Vista Level 1 and Level 2; and, Microsoft Windows Vista. For information on PDO offerings contact Margie Harris at <mailto:mharris@utsystem.edu>. To add courses to the PDO offerings, contact Rob Robinson at <mailto:rrobinson@utsystem.edu>.

See your story in UT4Me

The [UT4Me online newsletter](#) is focused on stories of interest to our community of students, faculty and staff. We are looking for short articles, mentions and stories about the work you are doing teaching and learning online. This can include new classroom projects, awards, publications, or presentations of interest as just a few examples. Maybe you have students with an interesting story, job or geographic location? Tell us your ideas and we'll help you write it. Submit your ideas before Oct. 15th for inclusion in the next issue. We welcome your input. Email us at UT4Me@utsystem.edu.

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