ILCCO Newsletter: April, 2009

Jeff's Jargon
Jeff Newell, ILCCO Director

ILCCO's primary directive this year is developing a strategic plan that will guide the organization in the coming 3 – 5 years. It has been a rewarding effort in both pushing ILCCO into new territory and in affirming core principles that have guided the organization since its inception. ILCCO's vision, mission, and goals have been re-developed and the Steering Committee is now in the process of fleshing out activities in support of those goals…

Full Article

Shawnee Community College Developing Online Learning and Services
Rob Lucas, Educational Technology Specialist

Shawnee Community College made a big commitment to online learning in 2008. This commitment began in the spring as the college requested a site visit from North Central to evaluate the accreditation of a fully online AA/AS degree program. The visit went well and in January we received formal notification indicating accreditation had been extended by the Higher Learning Commission.

Full Article

New and Specialized ICE Courses Available

Harper College: Physical Geography, Introduction to Arts, History of Art II, Asian and African Humanities, Elementary Spanish, Professional Writing, Principles of Professional Selling, Java Software Development I.

Full Article

Coming Events

31 events listed between April and June:

- ION Faculty Summer Institute
- Working Connections IT Faculty Development Institute
- ITC audioconferences
- LERN online courses
- SLOAN-C online seminars
- STARLINK Webcasts

Full Article

Research to Read
Sarah Stark, Harper

Millennial Students: How Do We Teach Them?

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To learn more about ILCCO, contact Jeff Newell at jeff.newell@illinois.gov

Jeff's Jargon (full article)

Strategic Plan Development
ILCCO's primary directive this year is developing a strategic plan that will guide the organization in the coming 3 – 5 years. It has been a rewarding effort in both pushing ILCCO into new territory and in affirming core principles that have guided the organization since its inception. ILCCO's vision, mission, and goals have been re-developed and the Steering Committee is now in the process of fleshing out activities in support of those goals. The development work has built on the excitement that sprung out of last year's June Steering Committee Retreat. This year's retreat should finalize the strategic planning process and put ILCCO in a better position to serve Illinois community colleges.

ILCCO June Retreat
The ILCCO Steering Committee will again be holding a retreat on June 17 & 18. One day of the retreat will be dedicated to the continued development of ILCCO's Strategic Plan. The other day will be a professional development day, which is currently in development. All Illinois community colleges will be invited to attend the professional development day. More information will be coming in the near future.

ICE 2
ICE 2 has been completed and is now in operation. It is now in use for course sharing with the summer 2009 semester. Two ILCCO programmers were involved in the extensive work needed in creating a new, up-to-date system that will support course sharing for the foreseeable future. ILCCO thanks Troy Walker, our past programmer, and Brian Kai, our current programmer for all of their work in getting ICE 2 up developed and in service. I also want to personally thank all of the ILCCO colleges for their generous participation in testing the system during development.

Training was provided to colleges during March. For additional ICE 2 training or more information contact me at jeff.newell@illinois.gov or Brian Kai at bkai@lakeland.cc.il.us.

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ILCCO Featured College (full article)

Shawnee Community College: Developing Online Learning and Services
Shawnee Community College made a big commitment to online learning in 2008. This commitment began in the spring as the college requested a site visit from North Central to evaluate the accreditation of a fully online AA/AS degree program. The visit went well and in January we received formal notification indicating accreditation had been extended by the Higher Learning Commission.

But formal accreditation of our online degree is only part of Shawnee's ongoing commitment. To support the quality of its online classes, Shawnee adopted ION's (Illinois Online Network) Quality Online Course Initiative rubric as both a formative and evaluative instrument for its online courses. The college's Teaching and Learning Center began offering training in using the document for course development (and began making plans for a summer seminar in online instruction). Meanwhile, an online degree committee continues to meet to discuss the rubric's use as a tool for external course evaluation.

Course design is a significant part of successful online learning, but student services are important too. Because we understood this, in 2008 Shawnee built upon its traditional services to better serve students online. To begin with, we joined eTutoring.org, a consortium of schools offering academic tutoring online. We chose eTutoring because it extended and expanded, rather than replaced, our traditional tutor resources. We are now in our second semester using the service and while student awareness of it is small but growing, anecdotal student feedback among those using it has been very positive. To complement this academic help for students, at the end of 2008 the college added technology help. So,

beginning in January of this year, the Shawnee tech help desk was staffed by peer counselors to answer questions by phone, email and in-person on the academic use of computer hardware and software and on the use of the college's online learning tools and environments. Now student help even extends into library research as earlier this semester Shawnee's library joined with AskAway to provide students with live research help through the school's website. Together, all these services are improving and expanding our ability to give our students convenient access to help when they need it.

Improvement and expansion was also a motivator for a platform change in our online classes. In fall semester of 2008, Shawnee began to migrate off of its old course management system and to move its online courses into Blackboard CE 8. We are currently in our first full semester of using the CE 8 platform exclusively after piloting a few classes in it last fall. We also licensed Elluminate Live to increase the opportunities for synchronous engagement within Blackboard, giving our students and instructors even more options for learning online.

A new degree, a new platform, more online student services and a solid course design rubric: we believe that all these changes in 2008 at Shawnee Community College give our online students better access to our current services and a greater chance to successfully reach their future educational goals at the college and beyond.

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New ICE Courses (full article)

Harper College is now offering 8 new courses online:

- Introduction to Arts – 3 credit hours (IAI: F2 900)
- History of Art II – 3 credit hours (IAI: ART 902; F2 902)
- Asian and African Humanities – 3 credit hours (IAI: HF 904N)
- Physical Geography – 3 credit hours (IAI: P1 909)
- Physical Geography Lab – 1 credit hour (IAI: P1 909L)
- Elementary Spanish II – 4 credit hours (IAI: none)
- Professional Writing: Grammar and Style – 3 credit hours (IAI: none)
- Principles of Professional Selling – 3 credit hours (IAI: none)
- Java Software Development I – 4 credit hours (IAI: none)

Contact the Department of Instructional Technology at 847.925.6805 or send email to sstark@harpercollege.edu for more information.

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Coming Events – National Organizations (full article)

April Events
ITC Audioconferences (http://www.itcnetwork.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=252#March%202009)
- Enhancing Student Success Through Resources and Activities – April 21
- To Speak or Not to Speak: Teaching Effective Speaking Totally Online – April 28

LERN Online Courses (http://www.lern.org/edctr/upcoming_online/upcoming_online.cfm)
- Advanced Teaching Online - April 20-24

SLOAN-C Online Seminars (http://www.sloan-c.org/2009ws_schedule)
- Selection, Incorporation and Assessment of New and Emerging Technologies for Online Courses – April 20-May 8
- Getting Started: Online Course Development Basics – April 22 – May8

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- Technology Bootcamp: West Coast Conference 2009 – April 29-May 16

SLOAN-C Workshop on Blended Learning and Higher Education
(http://www.uic.edu/depts/oee/blended/workshop/)
- Chicago, Illinois - April 27-28, 2009

STARLINK Webcasts (http://www.starlinktraining.org/Programs/Programs2009/facdevtele2009.asp)
- Award-Winning Tips, Tools and Techniques for Classroom Instruction – April 20 – May 4

May Events
Faculty Summer Institute (https://iteach.cites.uiuc.edu/fsi2009/home)
- Urbana, Illinois - May 16-21, 2009

LERN Online Courses (http://www.lern.org/edctr/upcoming_online/upcoming_online.cfm)
- Designing Online Instruction – May 4-8
- Generational Learning Styles – May 4-8

SLOAN-C Online Seminars (http://www.sloan-c.org/2009ws_schedule)
- Audio Tools for Teaching and Learning – May 6-15
- Getting Started in Second Life – May 13-22
- Intermediate Second Life for Educators – May 13-22
- Using the Quality Matters Rubric to Improve Your Online Course – May 27-June 9
- Avoiding Faculty Burnout – May 27-June 5

Working Connections IT Faculty Development Institute (http://www.workingconnectionsillinois.org/)
- Springfield, Illinois - May 18-22, 2009

June Events
SLOAN-C International Symposium: Emerging Technology Applications for Online Learning
(http://www.emergingonlinelearningtechnology.org/)
- San Francisco, California - June 17-19, 2009

Research to Read (full article)

Our colleges are filling with students who are dramatically different than those of us who have been around for a while. How do we help faculty design course materials that will reach this generation that "pays constant, partial attention" to everything around them? Begin by listening to a 90-minute discussion on Google video entitled "Debate: The Millennials - the Dumbest Generation or the Next Great Generation?" (available at http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4852891837005724826), move on to read Educating the Net Generation by Oblinger and Oblinger (available free at http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/pub7101.pdf) and then locate actual activities in Engaging the Online Learner by Conrad and Donaldson (available via Amazon).

Web Site Watch (full article)

Searching for an easy to use yet powerful online whiteboard application? Dabbleboard http://www.dabbleboard.com might be the tool for you! Utilizing an easy to use interface and some extra bells and whistles, Dabbleboard is a free whiteboard application that makes it easy to create and share ideas.

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While it includes many of the same functions other online whiteboards contain, one of the more useful utilities is that it chunks each new addition to the whiteboard and allows you to manipulate and edit them on the board individually, as well as save it for future use by dragging it to your personal library. The personal library then allows you to reuse these saved chunks of material next time you use Dabbleboard. Other useful functions include the share and chat function that allows multiple users to interact on the white board and via a built in instant messenger, the capability to save your whiteboard online or download it as an image to your computer, and the flexibility to upload PDF documents or images to the whiteboard.

Regardless of whether you are looking for something to use just for yourself, collaborative meetings with peers, or learning sessions with students, Dabbleboard is a free, user friendly, online whiteboard application that is definitely worth a try!

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Tech Tool Talk (full article)

The 2009 edition of the Horizon Report has just been published. For those of you new to this valuable report, it is a collective effort between New Media Consortium and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative. Each year since 2002, this report introduces six emerging technologies or practices that are likely to enter mainstream use in applications for learning, research, and creative expression over the next one to five years.

The following six applications are featured in this year's edition:

1) Mobile Devices - New interfaces, the ability to run third-party applications and location awareness is making the mobile a more versatile tool that easily adapts to applications for learning, productivity, and social networking.

2) Cloud Computing – The emergence of large scale "data farms" which are large clusters of networked servers, is bringing huge quantities of processing and storage capacity within easy reach.

3) Geo-Everything – Many devices can now automatically determine precise location, with captured media, or can transmit to web-based applications for a host of uses.

4) The Personal Web – Fueled by tools that allow for personal customization in organizing online content, "personal web" is a term coined to represent technologies that assist in managing the way we view and use the internet.

5) Semantic-Aware Applications – These are tools "can simply gather the context in which information is couched, and that use then use that context to extract embedded meaning to provide rich new ways of finding and aggregating content. At the same time, other tools are allowing context to be easily modified, shaped, and redefined as information flows are combined."

6) Smart Objects - A set of technologies that impart ordinary objects with the ability to "know" their physical environment and respond appropriately, or connect with other objects or information.

For a copy of the complete report: http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2009-Horizon-Report.pdf.

Johnson, L., Levine, A., and Smith, R. (2009). The 2009 Horizon Report. Austin, Texas:

The New Media Consortium.