Jeff's Jargon - Jeff Newell, ILCCO Director

Illinois Community Colleges Online (ILCCO) and the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) were awarded a HECA grant at the October 2nd Illinois Board of Higher Education Board Meeting to pilot peer mentoring in online courses.

The "Increasing Retention in Online Courses through Peer Mentoring" project is designed to improve student retention rates in online courses through an online peer mentoring program. Trained peer mentors will serve as a support system in online courses modeling effective behavior to students and assisting faculty in providing effective communication and support for students to foster a successful online learning experience. Implementation of the peer mentoring program is intended to reduce course-level barriers to persistence towards degree.

Full Article

ILCCO Featured College: Lake Land — Sue Nugent, Lake Land

Have you ever found yourself repeating the same concepts over and over to students during office hours? Do you teach how to use software packages and find yourself repeating the same steps over and over? If this is the case, then Camtasia Studio can be a time saver for you and help you reach your audio/visual learners more effectively.

Full Article

New and Specialized ICE Courses Available

Danville Area Community College: Basic Skills, Accounting and Government

Harper College: Linear Algebra, Architectural CAD I, Pharmacology, Linux and Business Ethics

John Wood Community College: Supply Chain Management, Critical Thinking, Entrepreneurship, Horticulture, German, Spanish and more

Full Article

Coming Events

October
- 8 events sponsored by ICCFA, SLOAN-C, LERN, ITC and ION in conference, online, audioconference and Webinar formats

November
- 10 events sponsored by League for Innovation, LERN, ICCCA, SLOAN-C, ITC and OLN in conference, online, audioconference and Webinar formats!

December
- 2 events sponsored by ITC in audioconference format

January
- 4 events sponsored by ITC and OLN audioconference and Webinar formats

February
- 5 events sponsored by Illinois Online Conference, ITC and OLN audioconference and Webinar formats

Full Article

Research to Read

Sarah Stark, Harper

Topic: 7 Things You Should Know About…

Staying ahead of the curve is proving to be somewhat daunting in this time of rapid technology tool development. While not exactly "research" in its purest form, visiting the Educause Learning Initiative's Web site can help you to be informed almost at a glance. You can then use this information to consider emerging technologies as you plan for your own institution's teaching and learning needs.

Full Article

Website Watch

Jim Genandt, Spoon River

Topic: Online Faculty Training

Spoon River College has any instructor (full-time or part-time) participate and complete its Blackboard Institute, created by Lisa Dennis. This internal training helps persons by putting them into the roll as students in an online environment and they learn a wide range of necessary information and processes related to online course development and instruction.

Full Article

Tech Tool Talk

Tim Moore, Elgin

Topic: Second Life as a Learning Tool

On August 24-26, 2007, the Second Life (2L) Community Conference was held in Chicago. 2L is a virtual world published by Linden Labs. The conference had a track focusing on educational uses of 2L, and provided an overview from application to theory on how one might use 2L in an educational environment.

Full Article

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

Jeff's Jargon (full article)

ILCCO and UIS Awarded Peer Mentoring HECA Grant

Illinois Community Colleges Online (ILCCO) and the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) were awarded a HECA grant at the October 2nd Illinois Board of Higher Education Board Meeting to pilot peer mentoring in online courses.

The "Increasing Retention in Online Courses through Peer Mentoring" project is designed to improve student retention rates in online courses through an online peer mentoring program. Trained peer mentors will serve as a support system in online courses modeling effective behavior to students and assisting faculty in providing effective communication and support for students to foster a successful online learning experience. Implementation of the peer mentoring program is intended to reduce course-level barriers to persistence towards degree.

ILCCO and UIS will focus on preparation and project development over the current fall semester, training faculty and peer mentors, and creating a communication and web resources portal. In the spring 2008 semester, seven ILCCO colleges will implement peer mentoring in online courses with lower than average retention rates. Based on the UIS experience, it is expected that peer mentoring will increase retention and student success in online courses involved with the grant. ILCCO hopes to build on the experience through the peer mentoring project and offer further opportunities upon completion of the HECA grant.

The peer mentoring project partners seven ILCCO community colleges with UIS: Black Hawk College, Elgin Community College, Harper College, Lake Land College, Moraine Valley Community College, Triton College, and Waubonsee Community College.

ICCCA Fall Conference Reception

ILCCO will co-host an evening reception with NILRC on Wednesday, November 14 at the ICCCA Fall Conference in Tinley Park. Please stop by for refreshments and conversation! We look forward to seeing you there. The reception is from 7 – 11 PM.

ILCCO Membership

Illinois community colleges have already received information on becoming an ILCCO member for 2008. If you did not receive information or would like to know more, please contact me at jeff.newell@illinois.gov.

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ILCCO Featured College (full article)

Lake Land College Uses Camtasia Studio as a Time Saving Technology

Have you ever found yourself repeating the same concepts over and over to students during office hours? Do you teach how to use software packages and find yourself repeating the same steps over and over? If this is the case, then Camtasia Studio can be a time saver for you and help you reach your audio/visual learners more effectively.

What is Camtasia Studio you may be asking? Camtasia Studio is a product of the software company TechSmith (www.techsmith.com) and can be liken to a Swiss army knife. Camtasia is a full featured program used to create screenrecordings. A screenrecording is basically a video screen capture of your computer's desktop. The recorder software bundled with Camtasia Studio records all of the mouse movements.   As you move the mouse pointer around on screen and perform tasks such as opening software windows and typing a document, the recorder tracks the movement. Camtasia can also record web cam video while recording the desktop screen. This can make your screenrecordings seem more personable to your students. On computers with the Microsoft Office loaded, it also loads a PowerPoint plugin that allows you to record directly in PowerPoint in Slide show view.

Editing is a breeze. No programming skills are required.   The final production can be created by importing all the clips and assembling the clips on a timeline. The edited video can be for production output. Additional enhancements can also be added to the timeline such as transitions, callouts and zooms and pans. Callouts and zoom and pans can help keep your audience focused on the important points of your video.

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Additionally you can add quizzes and surveys to your production to help students recall the information. Camtasia is a SCORM-compliant application, which allows you to use the quizzing feature and record the grade within a learning management system such as Blackboard. Another useful feature of Camtasia is the ability to add 508-compliant captions to your videos. This will make your videos more memorable and accessible to all your students.

Production is also a breeze and Camtasia gives you several different output formats to choose from such as Flash, QuickTime, Windows Media, and even iPod video. It is quick and easy to produce and share the video with your students. TechSmith also has a video service called screencast.com. Once you have signed up for the service you can upload a newly produced video to the service to share instantly. To get an idea of what you can do with Camtasia, visit the customer gallery at the following web address: http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia/spotlight.asp .

New ICE Courses (full article)

Danville Area Community College is offering a full range of Basic Skills developmental courses as online self-paced study and more:
- DEVE 098: Review of English for Written Communication (4 credit hours total in 1 hour modules)
  - DEVE 981WA: Writing Forceful Paragraphs
  - DEVE 981WB: Writing Complete Sentences
  - DEVE 981WC: Joining Ideas and Revising
  - DEVE 981WD: Mastering Mechanics and Spelling Skills
- DEVE 099: Paragraph Development (4 credit hours total in 1 hour modules)
  - DEVE 991WA: Reviewing Grammar and Mechanics
  - DEVE 991WB: Improving Writing Skills and Spelling
  - DEVE 991WC: Writing Types of Essays
  - DEVE 991WD: Developing Paragraph Formats
- DEVM 098: Basic Mathematics (4 credit hours total in 1 hour modules)
  - DEVM 981WA: Whole Numbers, Fractions, Decimals
  - DEVM 981WB: Ratio and Proportion, Percents, Business Consumer Applications
  - DEVM 981WC: Statistics, English and Metric Measurements
  - DEVM 981WD: Rational Numbers, Solving Algebraic Equations and Geometry
- DEVM 099: Basic Mathematics (3 credit hours)
- DEVM 100: Introduction to Fundamentals of Algebra (3 credit hours)
- DEVR 098: Study Skills (4 credit hours total in 1 hour modules)
  - DEVR 981WA: Building College Vocabulary
  - DEVR 981WB: Student Success
  - DEVR 981WC: Study Methods and Test Taking
  - DEVR 981WD: Reading Comprehension
- DEVR 099: Developing Academic Literacy (4 credit hours total in 1 hour modules)
  - DEVR 991WA: Strategic Reading I
  - DEVR 991WB: Strategic Reading II
  - DEVR 991WC: Critical Reading and Thinking
  - DEVR 991WD: Advanced College Reading
- POLI 231W: State and Local Government (3 credit hours; IAI S5 902)
- CACC 166W: Cost Accounting 3 credit hours)

Contact the Instructional Media Department at 217.443.8577 or send email to jspors@dacc.edu for more information.

Harper College is offering Linear Algebra, Architectural CAD I, Pharmacology, Biology, Linux series courses and Business Ethics online:
- MTH 203: Linear Algebra (4 credit hours; IAI MTH 912)
- ATE 105: Architectural CAD I (3 credit hours)
- HSC 210: Pharmacology (2 credit hours)
- BIO 136: Introduction to Human Disease (3 credit hours; IAI L1 904)
- NET106: Introduction to Linux (3 credit hours)

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- NET 141: Linux Administration (3 credit hours)
- NET 236: Linux Shell Scripting (3 credit hours)
- NET 241: Linux Networking (3 credit hours)
- NET 242: Linux Security (3 credit hours)

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

John Wood Community College is offering Supply Chain Management, Critical Thinking, Horticulture, Religion, Foreign Languages and more online:
- BUS 195: Supply Chain Management (3 credit hours)
- PHL 111: Logic/Critical Thinking (3 credit hours)
- PSY 145: Human Relations in the Workplace (3 credit hours)
- SCI 195: Ocean Studies (4 credit hours)
- BUS 110: Entrepreneurship (3 credit hours)
- HRT 150: Principle of Horticulture (3 credit hours: IAI L1 901 and AG 905)
- PHL 195: Religion in America (3 credit hours)
- GER 102: German II (4 credit hours)
- SPN 102: Spanish II (4 credit hours)

Contact the Distance Education Department at 217-641-4536 or send email to johnsons@jwcc.edu for more information.

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Coming Events (full article)

Teaching and Learning Excellence Conference (sponsored by ICCFA)
Attend breakout sessions, keynotes and connect with colleagues at this year's conference based on the theme of Community College and the 21st Century: Teaching and Learning For A Changing World.
- Date: October 18-19, 2007
- Location: Springfield President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center
- Cost: $95 for entire conference
- Registration: http://www.iccfa.org/

Generational Learning Styles Online Seminar (sponsored by LERN)
This online seminar is a pioneering work intended to provide you with guidelines for meeting the challenges of multiple generations in school, work and society.
- Date: October 22-26, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $95
- Registration:
  http://www.lern.org/registration/testCart/default.cfm?ProductID=2154&do=detail

Advanced Teaching Online Seminar (sponsored by LERN)
This online seminar provides the latest information on how learning online is different from classroom learning. Receive information not available anywhere else on teaching online, be able to plan, develop and teach an online course with the knowledge skills gained from this course, see how a virtual classroom works and engage in sharing new ideas and the latest tips and techniques with other teachers.
Date: October 22-26, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $145
- Registration:
  http://secure.augusoft.net/lern/registration/testcart/default.cfm?ProductID=2147&do=detail

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Using Rubrics and Online Tools to Guide, Improve and Assess Learning Audioconference
(sponsored by ITC)
Large distance learning classes present special challenges to faculty who are trying to balance the use of writing assignments and meaningful projects with the time demands of grading. Learn how to create scoring rubrics to guide student performance, measure robust learning outcomes, and streamline grading and feedback.
- Date: October 23, 2007
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

Learning Online 2.0 – 20 Engaging, Interacting and Syndicating Applications Online Seminar
(sponsored by SLOAN-C)
This workshop introduces and explores 20 of the most engaging and promising Web 2.0 technologies that are freely available for use in online learning.
- Date: October 24-November 2, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $295 ($145 for premium members)
- Registration: https://secured.sloanconsortium.org/learningonline-oct2007/registration.cfm

Introduction to Second Life for Educators Online Seminar (sponsored by SLOAN-C)
Participants will learn the basics of Second Life, and integrate learning theories in the use of virtual worlds. They will be encouraged to create activities that are student-centered and maximize the real potential of virtual worlds.
- Date: October 24-November 2, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $295 ($145 for premium members)
- Registration: https://secured.sloanconsortium.org/secondlife-oct2007/registration.cfm

Course Improvement Series – Course Evaluation Webinar (sponsored by ION)
Use the new QOCI Rubric (http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/initiatives/qoci/rubric.asp) as a guide to participate in a discussion of how you can improve online courses specifically with course evaluation.
- Date: October 25, 2007
- Time: 2:00 - 3:30PM
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: free
- Registration: visit http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/institutes/webinars/monthly/upcomingevents.asp (Note: You must be logged in to MyION to register) or contact Kevin Johnson at kejohns@uillinois.edu for more information.

Saving Faculty Time Online Seminar (sponsored by LERN)
This online seminar provides great practical tips on making better use of your valuable time. Get great time-saving ideas for working with students, other faculty and administration, and your own work. Discover shortcuts you can use right away.
- Date: October 30-November 1, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $95
- Registration: https://secure.augusoft.net/lern/registration/savingFacultyTime/register.cfm

Designing Online Instruction Online Seminar (sponsored by LERN)
This one-week online seminar covers topics that include: models of web courses, phases of design and development, team vs. individual approach to development, creating an interactive environment, managing interaction, motivating student-student interaction, and much more.
- Date: November 5-9, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $145
- Registration: http://secure.augusoft.net/lern/registration/testcart/default.cfm?ProductID=2151&do=detail

Integrating Instructional Technology in the English Studies Curriculum Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
15 percent of all required first-year composition courses (more than 400 students) at Miami University are being taught in a new laptop classroom. The presenters will describe the planning, development, and assessment of these new spaces, curricula, and programs.
- Date: November 6, 2007
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

SLOAN-C International Conference on Online Learning (sponsored by SLOAN-C)
This conference, which will provide the latest information on asynchronous learning programs, processes, packages, and protocols, is geared to both experienced professionals and interested newcomers to online learning who hail from a variety of work sectors, including higher education, continuing education, business, government, health care, professional associations, and nonprofit organizations.
- Date: November 7-9, 2007
- Location: Orlando, Florida
- Cost: $345 (SLOAN-C premium members – contact Sarah Stark for information)
- Registration: https://www.ce.ucf.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?~~07fcnf0100

Students as Customers - Retention in Online Education Online Seminar (sponsored by SLOAN-C)
Getting a student through a virtual classroom door is only the first step in student relationship management. This workshop takes an enterprise-level approach in exploring best practices in student retention. Issues pertaining to administrative and technical support will be addressed.
- Date: November 7-16, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $295 ($145 for premium members)
- Registration: https://secured.sloanconsortium.org/studentsascustomers-nov2007/registration.cfm

Stretching Into the Future Webinar (sponsored by Ohio Learning Network)
The pace of change is accelerating with doubling times for IT, communications and biotech ranging between one and two years. How can we make optimal decisions with present information? How will our decisions impact the role of education? What can educators do now to help students prepare?
- Date: November 8, 2007
- Time: 2:00 - 3:00PM
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: free
- Registration: http://wiki.teachuohio.org/page/Register

Conference on Information Technology (sponsored by League for Innovation in Community Colleges)
This conference offers a diverse program and cutting edge exposition exploring the application of instructional technology in community and technical colleges.
- Date: November 11-14, 2007
- Location: Nashville, TN
- Cost: $525
- Registration: http://www.league.org/2007cit/reg/reg.cfm#form

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

Instructional Blogging — Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
This presentation highlights how instructors and faculty have incorporated instructional blogging in courses at the University of Arizona. The presenter will focus on how blogs support peer review, extend learning outside of the classroom, discuss course readings, address course issues, incorporate visual with text, and promote community.
- Date: November 13, 2007
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Conference (sponsored by ICCCA)
Attend breakout sessions, keynotes and participate in the Institute for Leadership and Core Values at this annual conference.
- Date: November 14-16, 2007
- Location: Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select
- Cost: $179 for entire conference
- Registration: http://www.iccca.org/register.htm

Copyright Compliance for Online Educators Online Seminar (sponsored by SLOAN-C)
As an online educator, you need to know how copyright affects you when using materials to supplement your online courses. You also need to know how your original works can be protected. In this workshop, you will be taken through the key copyright issues that you and your colleagues should be aware of when preparing and delivering your online courses.
- Date: November 28-December 7, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $295 ($145 for premium members)
- Registration: https://secured.sloanconsortium.org/copyright-nov2007/registration.cfm

Introduction to Second Life for Educators Online Seminar (sponsored by SLOAN-C)
Participants will learn the basics of Second Life, and integrate learning theories in the use of virtual worlds. They will be encouraged to create activities that are student-centered and maximize the real potential of virtual worlds.
- Date: November 28-December 7, 2007
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $295 ($145 for premium members)
- Registration: https://secured.sloanconsortium.org/secondlife-nov2007/registration.cfm

iTunes U — Podcasting Made Easy Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
The presenter will share tips and tricks of how to fully implement iTunes U using a Windows-based PC in a Windows-based environment. Technological challenges, solutions, and feedback from faculty and students will be presented. Participants will learn how it was used to dramatically improve passage rates in nursing clinicals.
- Date: December 4, 2007
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

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Building Quality – Using QM Standards in Online Course Development Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
Building quality assurance into the online course development process assists in the efficient creation of high quality courses. The presenters will discuss how they have adapted the research-based Quality Matters rubric standards to build quality into new online using a team approach to course development.
- Date: December 11, 2007
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

Ten Ways to Improve Your Online Faculty Training Course Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
Many colleges continue to work on improving training courses to prepare faculty for online teaching. The presenters will look in detail at ten features of a successful faculty certification course that increased persistence and completion rates of faculty members while preparing them to better meet student and institutional needs.
- Date: January 8, 2008
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

A Collaborative Approach to Online Student Support Services Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
Current research indicates that support services are critical to the success of online learners. Providing those services in a consistent and persistent manner is essential. The Michigan Community College Association Virtual Learning Collaborative (MCCAVLC) representative will present the services that have been developed as shareable learning objects and stored in a common repository.
- Date: January 15, 2008
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

Moodle – An Online Course Management System Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
Moodle is online learning management system - a software package designed to help educators create quality online courses. This presentation includes an overview of Moodle. Topics include assignment creation, student communication, user management and authentication, on-line group collaboration, and other unique course components.
- Date: January 22, 2008
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

Mobile Learning Webinar (sponsored by Ohio Learning Network)
Four presenters share their expertise and experiences with attendees on the topics of pedagogy and the technical side of mobile learning.
- Date: January 24, 2008
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: free
- Registration: http://wiki.teachuohio.org/page/Register

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Illinois Online Conference (IOC) for Teaching and Learning (sponsored by ILCCO, ION and IVC)
The 2008 Online Conference for Teaching and Learning features keynotes, presentations and discussions based on the topics of: Innovation, Technology, Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Current Issues in Illinois Education.
This conference is held entirely on the Internet using: email, the Web, synchronous chats, discussion areas, and other Internet technologies. This premier online conference was created to focus on issues and concerns of K-20 classroom faculty and related technology support, learning resources, student services, and workforce development trainers.
- Date: February 13-15, 2008
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: $125
- Registration: https://www.ilcco.net/securepages/ioc/register/reg_online.cfm (Note: support for registration costs may be available for ILCCO members — contact your college ILCCO representative for more information

Reverse Benefits — How Teaching Online Improves Face to Face Teaching Webinar (sponsored by Ohio Learning Network)
Teaching online requires faculty to rethink and adjust both content and teaching methodology. Faculty discussions about these changes can be productive faculty development opportunities. They provide a starting point to foreground and explore assumptions about good teaching and appropriate academic experiences in all environments.
- Date: February 14, 2008
- Time: 12:00 - 1:00PM
- Location: Your computer
- Cost: free
- Registration: http://wiki.teachuohio.org/page/Register

What's In a Lab? Online Science Laboratories Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
The presenter will look at how we define a science laboratory experience and the options for putting that experience at a distance. She will describe the pilot of a PHY 103 Concepts in Physics Lab that is offered online. She will also discuss the positives and negatives from that experience, the changes she made in response, and some innovative software that was used in the project.
- Date: February 5, 2008
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

Trends in E-Learning — Results from ITC's Survey on Distance Education Audioconference (sponsored by ITC)
The rapidly changing face of distance education has been captured each year in the ITC annual national distance education survey. In this fourth year of the survey, significant trends have started to emerge in the data collected. The presenter will review the major results of the survey, explore trends, and discuss the relevance of the data for distance education programs, faculty and administrators. Topics will include: most significant challenges for distance education administrators, faculty and students, trends in services offered for virtual students, the pace of growth in enrollments and trends in key policy and practice areas.
- Date: February 12, 2008
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

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Teaching Public Speaking Online – Assessment and Quality Control Audioconference
(sponsored by ITC)
Educators increasingly need to meet the needs of online learners who are enrolled in public speaking and other courses that require oral presentations. The presenter will share tips on how to support the design, delivery and assessment of online public speaking presentations and assignments. The primary source of content for this audioconference will be a series of student narratives gathered to write, "A Guidebook on Designing, Implementing and Analyzing an OnLine, Introductory Public Speaking Course for Success."
- Date: February 26, 2008
- Time: 1:00 - 2:00PM
- Location: Your computer and telephone
- Cost: $25
- Registration: email mmaxwell@itcnetwork.org

Research to Read (full article)

Staying ahead of the curve is proving to be somewhat daunting in this time of rapid technology tool development. While not exactly "research" in its purest form, visiting the Educause Learning Initiative's Web site can help you to be informed almost at a glance. You can then use this information to consider emerging technologies as you plan for your own institution's teaching and learning needs.

Each month, an emerging technology is featured. By viewing a brief, you can learn:
- what it is
- how it works
- where it is going
- why it matters to teaching and learning

Briefs are written in no-jargon terms and provide enough of an overview so that you can make an informed decision about whether or not a tool is worth further exploration. Locate this site at http://www.educause.edu/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutSeries/7495

Tech Tool Talk (full article)

On August 24-26, 2007, the Second Life (2L) Community Conference was held in Chicago. 2L is a virtual world published by Linden Labs. The conference had a track focusing on educational uses of 2L, and provided an overview from application to theory on how one might use 2L in an educational environment.
- Slideshows from presentations: http://www.slideshare.net/tag/slccedu07
- Proceedings: http://cis.paisley.ac.uk/livi-ci0/slccedu2007rev2.doc

From digital games to a virtual classroom, 2L provides flexibility to anyone who might be interested in developing something new. Although one needs to learn some scripting and design to create a really nice space, other's spaces are available to be utilized. Visit http://secondlife.com/ to learn more!

Web Site Watch (full article)

Spoon River College has any instructor (full-time or part-time) participate and complete its Blackboard Institute, created by Lisa Dennis. This internal training helps persons by putting them into the roll as students in an online environment and they learn a wide range of necessary information and processes related to online course development and instruction. This training has been beneficial in creating a common foundation of understanding and experience for our online instructors. We believe it is paying off as our online credit hour enrollment for the fall 2007 semester is 45% more than it was in the fall term 2006.

For more information about the Blackboard Institute, please contact Lisa Dennis at ldennis@src.edu .

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