

On The Cutting Edge

Showcasing *Distance Learning* in the *NC Community College System*

Governor Easley Recommends Expanding Funds for Distance Learning

On February 21, Governor Mike Easley released his expansion budget recommendations for the 2007-2009 biennium. His statement included a recommendation for an additional \$74.9 million for community colleges, a 5.4% increase over 2006-07.

Included in Governor Easley's recommendations is \$7.3 million in 2007-2008 to improve and expand distance learning and online instructional opportunities.

The \$7.3 million will help provide:

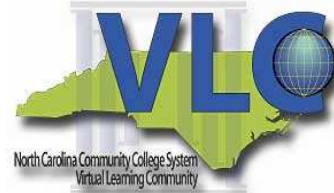
- increased bandwidth to colleges
- course editing and development centers
- regional instructional design support centers
- funds to support a state-wide learning object repository
- a virtual computing laboratory
- collaboration projects between NCCCS and UNC institutions
- a comprehensive study of future NCCCS distance learning needs

In response to Governor Easley's budget recommendations, President Martin Lancaster stated, "As he has since he released his first recommendations for the North Carolina Community College System in 2001, the Governor has placed a strong emphasis on the role that the System plays in the continuum of providing education to North Carolina's citizens."

President Lancaster continued, "I applaud the Governor for making community colleges a high priority among the many competing fiscal needs of the state. I believe that the Governor recognizes and appreciates the important role that we play in higher education, in preparing North Carolina's workforce, and in delivering anytime-anywhere learning at a reasonable cost."

Visit the link below to read Governor Easley's recommendations in more detail: http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf_files/bqt0709summary.pdf

Contact: Dr. Linda Nelms, (919) 807-7179, nelmsl@nccommunitycolleges.edu



Highlights In This Issue:

- p. 2 – Late Nite Lab Workshops**
- p. 3 – Telecourse Schedule**
- p. 4 – Online Recruitment Tool**
- p. 5 – Online Natural Resource Programs**
- p. 6 – 62 Updated VLC Courses Available**
- p. 7 – New Academic Warning System**
- p. 8 – Online Spanish Labs**
- p. 9 – Virtual Field Trips**

Late Nite Labs Workshops Scheduled

There have been many innovations in the areas of instructional technology over the past several years. One of the most exciting new ideas has been in the area of online laboratory simulations.

The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) is expanding its distance learning and face-to-face Chemistry courses through the integration of Reactor® Chemistry software from Late Nite Labs.

This software simulates real and wet lab conditions, procedures, and assignments. Instructors can choose from a list of 50 prepared labs or customize their own labs.



Copyright, Late Nite Labs, All Rights Reserved

This software can also be used to supplement face-to-face science courses or to provide students with refresher activities on basic concepts without incurring costs for laboratory supplies or taking up class time.

Instructors interested in evaluating this software can receive access codes from Dr. Linda Nelms at the System Office. Instructors can also request student access codes each semester at no cost.

One-day regional workshops have been organized to introduce and demonstrate this new software to faculty. The locations and dates are:

Fayetteville Technical Community College	April 16
Martin Community College	April 17
Forsyth Technical Community College	April 18
Southwestern Community College	April 19

The workshops are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the days listed above. There is no charge for participants and travel expenses will be reimbursed by the System Office based on NCCCS travel guidelines.

Workshop space is limited and registration is required. To register for one of these workshops, call Kathy Davis at 919-807-7109 or email her at

davisk@ncccommunitycolleges.edu

Contact: Dr. Linda Nelms, (919) 807-7179, nelmsl@ncccommunitycolleges.edu

DISTANCE 
Learning Alliance

Mark your Calendars

Distance Learning Alliance Conference

May 23-25, 2007

**Asheville Crowne Plaza Resort
Asheville, NC**

For details visit

<http://www.dlalliance.org/>

Or contact: **Cindy Pannill** at

pannillc@ncccommunitycolleges.edu

UNC-TV Announces 2007-2008 Telecourse Broadcast Schedule

Through its adult learning services, UNC-TV continues to be a strong supporter of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) and its students. Each semester, UNC-TV airs college-credit telecourses for viewing by students enrolled in a variety of programs.

Telecourses are selected based on an annual survey completed by all NCCCS colleges. Each semester, the top 15 telecourses are selected for broadcast on UNC-TV.

The telecourses listed below were selected for airing:

Summer 2007

Abnormal Psychology
Business and the Law
College Algebra
Discovering Psychology
Economics USA
English Composition
Exploring Society
Journey To Health
Literary Visions
Personal Finance and Money Management
The Western Tradition (I and II)

Fall 2007

Abnormal Psychology
Art of Western World/World of Art
Business and the Law
Destinos I
Discovering Psychology
Economics USA
English Composition
Exploring Society
Journey To Health
Literary Visions
Macroeconomics (Dallas)
Personal Finance and Money Management
Power of Place
Western Tradition I

Spring 2008

Abnormal Psychology
Art of the Western World/World of Art
Business and the Law
College Algebra
Destinos II
Discovering Psychology
Economics USA
English Composition
Exploring Society
Journey To Health
Literary Visions
Macroeconomics (Dallas)
Microeconomics (Dallas)
The Western Tradition II

Visit the website listed below for a complete list of broadcast dates and times:

<http://www.unctv.org/education/tvforlearning/telecourse/index.html>

Although these courses were selected for broadcasting on UNC-TV, the System Office has not obtained licenses for them.

Licenses are negotiated based on declared usage from the colleges each semester. Institutions planning to offer telecourses should notify Ms. Kathy Davis at the System Office of their intended course needs prior to the beginning of each semester, and the Distance Learning Office will negotiate with vendors for NCCCS Telecourse Consortium pricing and usage rights.

If you would like to offer a telecourse that is not listed above, contact Ms. Davis and she will assist you in ensuring that the appropriate license agreement is on file before the beginning of the semester in which the courses will be offered.

Contact: Ms. Kathy Davis, (919) 807-7109,
davisk@ncccommunitycolleges.edu



North Carolina Distance Learning Online Recruitment Tool to be Unveiled

Since its inception in 2004, NC-NET (North Carolina Network for Excellence in Teaching) has responded to requests from the field for ways to improve the services of the NCCCS. Responding to concerns of Distance Learning Administrators who have difficulty finding enough qualified faculty to offer online courses, a planning group headed by Bob Ervin, Director of the NC-NET Central Regional Center, developed the concept which has become the NC Distance Learning Online Recruitment Tool.

The online system has been field tested by several Distance Learning Coordinators and was unveiled during a presentation at the Spring 2007 joint conference of the NC Association of Community College Instructional Administrators and the NC Student Development Administrators Association in Atlantic Beach. The tool will be accessible through the NC-NET website, <http://www.nc-net.info>. The specific URL for the recruitment tool will appear when the site is launched in April.

This clearinghouse is designed for use by North Carolina Community College instructors who wish to teach online and for Distance Learning Administrators seeking instructors for their programs. The software functions allow:

- Faculty to post up to five versions of their resumes

- Faculty to search for a position in their field by college, broad course category, specific course number and/or keywords

- Faculty to apply online for positions found in this database

- Distance Learning Administrators to post position openings

- Distance Learning Administrators to search through resumes by broad

course category, specific course numbers, and/or keywords

The screenshot shows the homepage of the NC-NET website. At the top, it reads "NC-NET The North Carolina Distance Learning Online Recruitment Tool" and "A SERVICE FOR NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES". Below this is a navigation bar with links for HOME, Search Jobs, Search by Course Category, Faculty Registration, Distance Learning Administrators, and Contact Us. A date and time stamp indicates "Sunday, March 11th, 2007 10:34 pm". A welcome message says "Welcome Guest, Please LOGIN to your account or REGISTER with us for career opportunities". The main content area features a "Member Login" section with fields for Username and Password, and radio buttons for "Faculty" and "DL Administrator". There is also a "Lost Password" link. To the right of the login section is a search area with a text input field, a dropdown menu for "All Colleges", and "Search" and "Advanced Search" buttons. Below the search area is a welcome message: "Welcome to the North Carolina Distance Learning Online Recruitment Tool" and a brief description of the tool's purpose.

Terms of Use

This Distance Learning Online Recruitment Tool exists for the benefit of NCCCS Distance Learning Administrators and qualified applicants who wish to teach online. Applicants may be from any state, but experience teaching within the NCCCS is preferred.

Instructors may view job openings without registering. Registration allows instructors to create resumes and to send them directly to Distance Learning Administrators seeking candidates for teaching an online course. Resumes persist in the searchable database for one year. Upon opening and editing a resume, the expiration date resets.

This Tool is designed as a first step toward matching applicants with open positions. It is not a substitute for completing a college's application form, providing references, and undergoing drug testing, if applicable. Any or all of these additional steps may be required by a college's human resources office.

Contact: Ms. Nancy Massey, (919) 807-7131, massey@ncccommunitycolleges.edu

Ten New Online VLC Courses Available Summer 2007

The 2006-2007 Virtual Learning Community (VLC) development cycle began with a number of ambitious goals. One of these goals was to increase the number of quality online science and math courses available to distance learning students.

Fayetteville Technical Community College accepted this challenging goal and is leading the efforts to develop the courses to meet the high level of quality expected of NCCCS courses.

As they have done in the past, the faculty and staff of the North Carolina Community College System came forward to work together to meet this objective. Through their outstanding efforts, the courses listed below are scheduled to be completed by Summer 2007. These courses will be available on the VLC website for download at <http://vlc.ncccommunitycolleges.edu>

BIO 120	Introductory Botany
BIO 130	Introductory Zoology
CHM 131A	Introduction to Chemistry Lab
CHM 135	Survey of Chemistry I
MAT 175	Precalculus
MAT 175A	Precalculus Lab
MAT 271	Calculus I
MAT 272	Calculus II
MAT 273	Calculus III
PHY 110	Conceptual Physics

Contact: Dr. Linda Nelms, (919) 807-7179, nelmsl@ncccommunitycolleges.edu



Haywood Community College Puts Natural Resources Programs Online

Funded by a Department of Labor grant, Haywood Community College (HCC) has reconstructed their Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, Horticulture, Geospatial, and Pulp & Paper programs for online and hybrid delivery.

Faculty members involved in this project mastered new technologies and new ways of teaching to facilitate hands-on learning activities for their distance students.

Instructors in these programs use a variety of techniques to deliver content and assess student learning:

- Geospatial students chat using Skype™
- Using Blackboard, Fish & Wildlife students use WAV audio files to identify frog or bird calls
- Videos of Forestry instructors taking field tests are created using Camtasia Studio™
- Horticulture students use digital cameras and cell phones to photograph and submit examples of pruning techniques

HCC's focus throughout this program has been to ensure that students leave their distance courses with the same knowledge and skills as their face-to-face counterparts.

Faculty members state that "these programs have provided a way to reach new students whom they would not have met in their traditional classrooms" and they feel "that's made the effort worth it."

For more information on this project visit <http://hcc-naturalresources.blogspot.com>

Contact: Ms. Marlowe Mager, (828) 565-4077, mmager@haywood.edu

Sixty-Two Updated Online Courses Scheduled to be Completed by Summer 2007

The Virtual Learning Community (VLC) Editing Centers located at Surry Community College, Wake Technical Community College, and Wayne Community College have edited and updated 62 courses spanning more than 20 disciplines. In addition, 81 other courses have been converted to the new VLC modular structure which provides increased instructor flexibility to expand existing content or add new content.

When the newly edited courses (listed below) are made available to colleges, they will have passed a comprehensive content review and quality assurance process. Each course will have been updated by a team of faculty content experts who were charged with ensuring that the latest theories were integrated into the course. In addition, the courses will have passed through a four-phase review process which evaluates the courses for factors such as a content based on learning theory, continuity of learning objectives and assessments, interactivity, adherence to instructional design theory, and ADA compliance.

These courses will be in Blackboard Version 7.1 and will be available Summer 2007. Distance learning administrators can download the courses from the VLC website at: <http://vlc.nccommunitycolleges.edu>

ART 111	Art Appreciation
ART 114	Art History Survey I
ART 115	Art History Survey II
BIO 111	General Biology I
BIO 112	General Biology II
CIS 110	Intro to Computers
COM 110	Intro to Communication
COM 120	Interpersonal Communication
COM 231	Public Speaking
CSC 134	C++ Programming
CSC 139	Visual Basic Programming
CSC 151	JAVA Programming
CSC 234	ADV C++ Programming
CTS 125	Presentation Graphics

CTS 220	Advanced Spreadsheet
ECO 251	Prin of Microeconomics
ECO 252	Prin of Macroeconomics
ENG 111	Expository Writing
ENG 112	Argument Based Research
ENG 113	Literature Based Research
ENG 114	Prof Research & Reporting
ENG 131	Introduction to Literature
ENG 231	American Literature I
ENG 232	American Literature II
ENG 241	British Literature I
ENG 242	British Literature II
ENG 261	World Literature I
GEO 111	World Regional Geography
HEA 110	Personal Health & Wellness
HIS 121	Western Civilization I
HIS 122	Western Civilization II
HIS 131	American History I
HIS 132	American History II
HUM 110	Technology & Society
HUM 115	Critical Thinking
HUM 150	American Women's Studies
HUM 160	Introduction to Film
MAT 140	Survey of Mathematics
MAT 151	Statistics I
MAT 161	College Algebra
MUS 110	Music Appreciation
NET 110	Networking Concepts
NOS 110	Operating System Concepts
PHI 240	Introduction to Ethics
POL 120	American Government
PSY 150	General Psychology
PSY 241	Developmental Psychology
PSY 281	Abnormal Psychology
REL 110	World Religions
SOC 210	Introduction to Sociology
SOC 213	Sociology of the Family
SPA 111	Elementary Spanish I
WEB 115	Web Markup and Scripting
WEB 230	Implementing Web Serv
	Continuing Education Courses
HAZ 3061	Hazardous Materials: Awareness
HEA 3002	Anatomy and Physiology
MED 3030	Healthcare Billing & Coding
NUR 3235	Medical Terminology
NUR 3236	Medical Transcription
NUR 3241	Nurse Aide Level II
OSH 3300	Blood Borne Pathogens Training
PHM 3250	Pharmacy Technician Training

Contact: Dr. Linda Nelms, (919) 807-7179,
nelmsl@nccommunitycolleges.edu

Central Carolina Community College Implements Early Academic Warning System

Under the direction of Brian Merritt, the new distance education counselor, Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) implemented a Distance Education Early Warning System pilot program in mid-February.

When CCCC upgrades to Blackboard 7.2 in Summer 2007, they plan on using its early warning feature. This feature notifies faculty, students, or academic counselors when “academic flags” arise on student accounts. These flags can identify poor grades, late or missing course work, and attendance problems within the online course.

CCCC’s pilot project was implemented to accustom distance faculty to the forthcoming Blackboard Early Warning System and to realize its benefits sooner. The pilot project encouraged faculty to refer students needing academic guidance to the distance education counselor by completing and emailing a simple electronic form. Students can also complete an electronic form and “self-report” academic problems. Since the project began in February, approximately ten students have referred themselves for academic assistance.

This pilot program is strengthening connections between distance faculty and staff, as well as more effectively supporting distance students by identifying and solving academic problems before they jeopardize success. As the system evolves, other services will be incorporated, including career and personal skills building.

Contact: Ms. Bianka Stumpf, (919) 718-7470, bstumpf@cccc.edu or Mr. Brian Merritt, (919) 718-7511, bmerritt@cccc.edu

Beaufort County Community College Develops an Interactive Guide for Distance Students

The Beaufort County Community College (BCCC) distance learning staff continuously strives to find innovative and convenient ways of offering distance learning students accurate and timely information.



Addressing the needs of their distance learning students for up-to-date and easy to find information, staff from the Learning Resource Center and Distance Learning area developed and produced *How Do I? An Interactive Guide to LRC Resources for Distance Learners*.

This guide is designed for ease of use, timeliness, accuracy, flexibility and appeal. Students can use the guide as a stand-alone resource or they can link it to the College Website.

The guide was released in January 2007 and has received positive comments from students, faculty, and staff. All curriculum online students receive the CD in the mail with a letter welcoming them to distance learning courses.

The guide is not only for distance students. Instructors are using it as an advising tool, and the Admissions Office is using it in their marketing and recruiting activities.

The *How Do I?* guide can be viewed from BCCC’s website at <http://www.beaufort.cc.nc.us/>

Contact: Ms. Penny Sermons, (252) 940-6243, pennys@bcc.edu, Ms. Tricia Woolard, (252) 940-6312, triciaw@bcc.edu, or Mr. Doug Stalls, (252) 940-6310, dougs@bcc.edu

Stanly Community College Develops Online Spanish Labs

Spanish instructors at Stanly Community College (SCC) have put their Spanish labs online. These new classes focus student activities on speaking, listening and responding orally in Spanish.

SCC Spanish instructors realized the need for alternative delivery methods when they became concerned that the students in their face-to-face labs were not getting as much experience listening and speaking the language as they were reading and writing it. Lab instructor Jonas Perez stated, "We are doing a great job of teaching our students to type in Spanish."

Spanish instructor Patricia Horner agreed and echoed requests by students for flexible Spanish labs. Spanish instructors joined with instructional technologist Jana Ulrich, to transform the Spanish labs into online classes.

Integrated into the courses are interactive instructions to demonstrate all aspects of recording and uploading lab assignment to WebCT (a course management system). Students are also given the option to speak lab assignments in person or over the telephone. The online environment provides more flexibility than face-to-face lab hours.

SCC Spanish instructors are unanimous in their approval of the new format and claim a noticeable difference in class performance and proficiency over student performance of the previous year.

Future plans include adding synchronous distance labs using Elluminate® and activities where students can practice with a "vocal pen pal," a student living in a Spanish-speaking country who is learning English.

Contact: Ms. Patricia Horner, (740) 991-0220, hornerpg@stanly.edu or Ms. Jana Ulrich, (740) 892-0121, ulrichjw@stanly.edu

Central Piedmont Pilots Second Life® to Create Virtual Worlds

Central Piedmont Community College's (CPCC) Futures Institute is running a pilot program using Second Life® Virtual World Technology and plans to use it for remote class interaction and student/staff interaction.



Copyright 2007, Linden Research, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Second Life® is a three-dimensional virtual world built entirely by the participants.

CPCC instructors have created courses which use Second Life® to conduct presentations and conversations which are then archived in Moodle (an open source course management system).

The goal of this pilot project is to explore how the interaction of these resources can be used to increase interactivity with students both as an e-learning complement and as a student services element.

Second Life® also provides a vehicle to increase collaborations. Some participants in the pilot project have worked with individuals from California, Tennessee, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

In addition, 12 instructors are using Second Life®, which also includes voice integration and the ability to "pass out" documents, to conduct virtual office hours. They state that "it is more like meeting in person than a simple text chat and affords more opportunities than a phone call."

You can learn more about Second Life® by visiting <http://www.secondlife.com>

Contact: Ms. Melissa Vrana, (704) 330-6038, Melissa.Vrana@cpcc.edu

Western Piedmont Community College Integrates Virtual Field Trips into Online Courses

Ms. Melissa Grill, an Instructional Technology Administrator at Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC), has integrated Virtual Field Trips and ToonUps™ into Customer Services courses.

Ms. Grill states that “customer service is one of those courses that is not particularly exciting for students, so finding ways to liven the course up a bit has been a challenge.” She finds resources such as Virtual Field Trips and ToonUps™ can stimulate learning.

She created Virtual Field Trips using TourMaker© software (<http://www.field-guides.com/vft/index.htm>). In order to spice up and enhance the Customer Service topics of Stress and Time Management, Ms. Grill created a trip with 12 stops that incorporated not only short activities, such as a visualization exercise, stress-relieving techniques, planning skills assessment, and a Blackboard discussion board but also web sites and graphical illustrations.

Overall, student feedback on the Virtual Field Trip has been positive. However, students who fail to read the navigation instructions thoroughly sometimes get temporarily “derailed.”

Ms. Gill states that “the Virtual Field Trip has provided an enjoyable educational tool for online learners.”

Readers can experience the Stress and Time Management virtual field trip at http://www.wpcc.edu/acadiv/project3/fieldtrip/chp10_11.htm.

Ms. Gill also uses ToonUps™ in her courses to catch the attention of her students.

ToonUps™ are animated cartoons created by MaraStar Communications (<http://www.Marastar.com/>) and used mainly for training employees.

According to MaraStar, ToonUps™ deliver an “important message in a humorous way, illustrating the proper or improper behavior, and providing a memorable example.”

ToonUps™ generally last from 30-60 seconds and can be delivered via the web in flash format (.swf) or emailed to students as an executable file (.exe). They can break up the characteristic monotony associated with a theory class by providing an entertaining approach to learning.

Contact: Ms. Melissa Grill, (828) 438-6097, mgrill@wpcc.edu

Staff Contacts for Newsletter

The following NCCCS Office staff are helping with the production and editing of the distance learning newsletter:

Ms. Barbara Boyce
Director, Continuing Education
boyceb@nccommunitycolleges.edu

Ms. Katherine Davis
Distance Learning Technician
davisk@nccommunitycolleges.edu

Ms. Tracy McPherson
Coordinator, Programs
mcpersont@nccommunitycolleges.edu

Dr. Judith Mann
Associate Vice President, Programs
mannj@nccommunitycolleges.edu

Dr. Linda Nelms
Coordinator, Distance Learning
nelmsl@nccommunitycolleges.edu

Dr. Randy Whitfield
Associate Vice President, Basic Skills
whitfieldr@nccommunitycolleges.edu