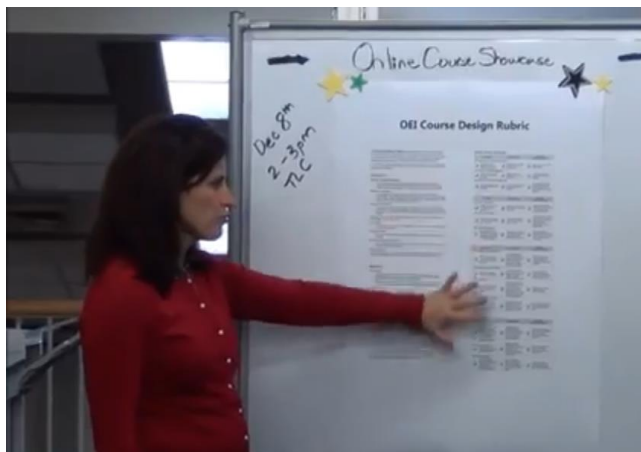


Distance Education Showcase Shines Light on Innovation



Sabrina Lawrence shares the Online Education Initiative Course Design Rubric at the Title V Online Learning Showcase.

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC, upstairs in the library) hosted a showcase of the 2015-2020 Title V-sponsored Online Learning cohort, the Gavilan Online Teacher Training (GOTT) initiative. Sabrina Lawrence, who has been coordinating the training, began the well-attended session with an overview of the Course Design Rubric for the Online Education Initiative (OEI), which has been driving online course design throughout the state for the past year and will continue to be influential as OEI expands (the rubric is available at http://ccconlineed.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/oei-ocdr_r1-20150501-CC-license.pdf).

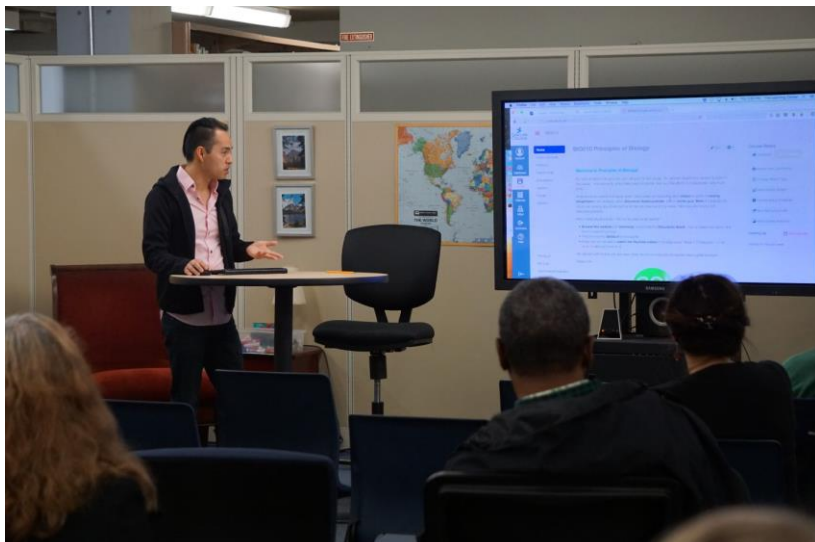
Political Science instructor Marc Turetzky shared his long experience developing online courses and offered some key tips in developing online courses. “The goal when I teach online,” said Turetzky, “is always student ease of access.” He encourages instructors to “try to keep a pretty simple format” and not “overburden students with too much information.” His online courses feature engaging content and connections to current issues relevant to the course. Turetzky has been developing podcasts for inclusion in his course and endorsed the new online learning platform, Canvas, which will be piloted this Spring and rolled out to the entire campus in summer 2017.

Biology instructor Patrick Yuh, who is pursuing a Masters in instructional technology, talked about the ease of transferring content from Moodle to Canvas and offered some strategies for engaging students.

Yuh suggests creating clear, prominent navigation aids on each page; his landing page for his course includes a large green “GO” button to move students from the activities on this page to the next set of activities. Yuh reviewed best practices in online course design, emphasizing creation of “predictable weekly course structures.” Using an application called SoundCloud (<http://soundcloud.com>), Yuh has created numerous



Political Science instructor Marc Turetzky highlighting design tips in his online course.



Biology instructor Patrick Yuh shares some of the applications he has integrated into his course design to more deeply engage students.

podcasts, including a weekly summary of content and expectations. Nevertheless, Yuh advises instructors to practice “high touch over high tech,” with the priority of making personal connections with students. A simple example of this is the bio page and photos Yuh includes in his online courses.

Library instructor Aloha Sargent shared her course, which has been fully created in Canvas. As a certified course evaluator for OEI, Sargent has a command of the criteria for course design expected in the statewide course exchange. She also has experience with many of the tools and options available in Canvas that can help with course design and usability.

Like Turetzky and Yuh, Sargent has devoted substantial attention to easy navigation. The landing page for her Canvas site is updated at the beginning of each week with targeted instructions about where to go and what to do next in the course. Each unit is structured the same way and includes an overview of the week’s objectives and a “to do” list. The model Sargent showed included a video of her narrating the week’s overview, too.

Sargent noted that some students taking her course did not have access to computers at home and were completing all their assignments on their phones. Previously, the LIB 200 course asked students to download files, modify them, and upload new files—a capability some students lacked with the equipment

available to them. Sargent redesigned the course so that students could create all the content required inside of Canvas so their lack of word processing software no longer creates a barrier for them.

Other members of the first cohort, Grant Richards, Dave Perez, and Jason Wolowitz will present their work to the campus in the coming months.

Meanwhile, a second cohort of faculty—Alex Stroykov, Julian Kearns, Denise Besson, John Lango, Sejal Dharia and Albert Marques-- has begun working on developing online curriculum for implementation next fall or spring, when the entire college moves its online instruction to the Canvas platform.

Funded by the 2015-2020 Title V grant, each cohort works together to become



Library instructor Aloha Sargent shares some of the features of the Canvas course management platform as part of the Distance Education Showcase.

familiar with the Online Education Initiative guidelines for course design. An instructional design specialist also works with the whole group and consults with each instructor individually. The outcome for each instructor is the production and implementation of highly interactive and engaging online curriculum. If you are interested in participating in the next cohort or have questions, contact Sabrina Lawrence in the TLC.