College of Alameda
Distance Education Newsletter

Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing."

- Donna J. Abernathy

New Canvas Features

- *Gender Pronouns:* Canvas now allows users to display preferred pronouns! To access this feature, click on "Account" on the left-hand column and then "Settings." From there, you'll see a "pronouns" setting to adjust. Here's a link with detailed instructions.
- *New Analytics Reminder:* As referenced in November's Newsletter, Canvas released New Analytics that allow instructors more access to student grade and participation data. View the November 2019 Distance Education Newsletter for an overview and tutorials.

New Canvas functionality is released on a monthly basis. Visit the Canvas Release Notes website monthly to learn more.

CVC-OEI Rubric Endorsement

The CoA Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate unanimously voted to endorse the CVC-OEI Course Design Rubric as a guiding tool for distance education courses. The rubric provides recommended benchmarks for online course design, interaction and collaboration, assessment, learner support, and accessibility. Visit this free self-paced course and Canvas shell to learn more about each section of the rubric or contact Jennifer Fowler at jfowler@peralta.edu for more info.

CVC-OEI Consortium Application

CoA is in the process of completing a self-assessment and application to join the 57 California Community Colleges already in the CVC-OEI Consortium. Membership would allow CoA access to the CVC Ecosystem that provides a suite of online support resources for faculty and students free to Consortium Colleges.

For more information about the CVC-OEI Consortium, benefits of membership, and other state distance education related projects visit cvc.edu.

Online Equity Training

In conjunction with Peralta's Improving Online CTE Pathways Grant project, the district launched a series of 5-week Online Equity Trainings utilizing the national award-winning Peralta Online Equity Rubric. The training utilizes Peralta Equity Rubric fundamentals to help faculty create equitable content and assignments. Over 50 faculty and staff district wide signed up.

Free Online Professional Development

Looking for free online professional development to enhance your skills as an online instructor? Check out the resources below.

- Conversation with DE Coordinators– Friday 3/6 from 11am-12pm. Inclusive Online Teaching with Merritt DE Coordinator, Monica Ambalal. Click this zoom link to enter the training.
- Byte-Sized Canvas– short videos on getting creative in Canvas.
- Free Self-Paced Courses– learn about accessibility, teaching on Canvas, and more.
- Free Canvas webinars– live, online training sessions conducted using videoconference tools related to Canvas. These webinars will help you learn Canvas features. There are 20+ sessions at different days and times every week.
- Vision Resource Center–12,000+ free learning modules from LinkedIn Learning (now offering all Lynda content), Skillsoft, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
- Meet your Distance Education Coordinator Jennifer Fowler in office hours every Wednesday from 2:00PM-3:00PM on Zoom for one-on-one assistance. You can also email Jennifer to set up an appointment outside of office hours: jfowler@peralta.edu.