Instructional Technology & Design Newsletter

Important Updates

Spring 2024 Instructional Design Support

Office Hours

This semester I'll be holding office hours on Tuesday from 2:30pm-3:30pm in-person in the Instructional Tech & Design Support Center, 13-337, and on Zoom in my Meeting Room: https://smccd.zoom.us/j/4516976442.

Consultations

I'll be offering both individual and small group consultations again this semester. You can see my availability and reserve a time to meet with me on Calendly. Here are a few examples of what we can work on during a consultation:

- *Identify Course Design Boosts* – If you want to improve your course design, but you're not sure what the best next step is for you, I can help to put together a plan for the next, most impactful, improvements you might consider for your course.
- *Two Heads Are Better Than One* – If you're considering trying out a new grading strategy, Canvas feature, or type of assignment, we can talk through it together and I can help to work through issues with you and come up with possible solutions.
- *POCR Prep* – If you're going to be taking a course through the Peer Online Course Review process this year, we can meet to determine some changes you can make in your course now to get you and your course more ready for the complete POCR process.
- *Accessibility Triage* – We all need to work on accessibility in our courses, but it can be overwhelming to read through ALL the accessibility standards we should be following. I'm happy to outline for you the top three most impactful accessibility fixes for your courses and how to most efficiently address them.
- *You Tell Me* – If there is anything else you'd like to chat about, or get help with, please don't hesitate to schedule a consultation with me.

Spring 2024 Instructional Technology Support

We are lucky enough to continue to have Instructional Technology Support with Erica Reynolds from CSM. Many of you have worked with Erica already, but her email is reynoldse@smccd.edu if you need it. Please reach out to Erica with any instructional technology questions or issues you might have this semester while we continue to work on filling our Instructional Technologist position.

Office Hours

Erica will be holding office hours on Tuesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm starting on Tuesday, January 30th. You can drop-in to Erica's office hours on Zoom at https://smccd.zoom.us/j/85346030329.

Reminders

Use Our Course Launch Checklist to Make Sure You're Ready for the Spring 2024 Semester
As you launch your courses on Canvas this week, remember to refer to our [Countdown to Course Launch Checklist](#) to be sure you haven't missed any last-minute steps.

Upgrading to Pearson Access LTI 1.3 in Canvas
This semester, your Pearson courses will require a slightly different set up! Instead of using the old 'MyLab and Mastering' or 'Pearson' tools, you'll be using the new 'Access Pearson' tool instead. The old tools will be disabled and will no longer work next semester. If you need any assistance with your course set up, please contact Hiromitsu Masuda at hiromitsu.masuda@pearson.com.

In your new Canvas course, you'll need to:

1. Navigate to **Settings > Navigation** and choose **Disable** from the option menu for the old "**MyLab and Mastering**" and/or "**Pearson Revel**" tool in your Canvas course navigation.
2. Next locate the "**Access Pearson**" tool and **click Enabl**e from the options menu. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click **Save**.
3. Create your Pearson course using the new Access Pearson tool and enable grade sync to update assignment links and grade columns in Canvas.
   a. You can easily copy your previous Pearson course as normal. Here is a [video walkthrough in case it helps.](#)
   b. You can also find [more detailed instructions on our Instructor Help page.](#) Note: any old Pearson assignment 'deep link' in your Canvas modules will need to be replaced/updated.

Canvas LMS Enhances Discussions and Announcements with User-Friendly Redesign
The discussion redesign includes an updated UI and new features. When the redesign is enforced on July 20, 2024 all existing discussions will show in the new UI and will have new functionality available to them. We are encouraging faculty to enable the Discussions/Announcements Redesign feature now for their Spring and Summer 2024 courses, so the feature enforcement in July will be less disruptive. The redesign currently includes:

- The toolbar has been moved to the top of the discussion and announcement thread.
- Newest replies display at the top of the first page instead of the bottom of the last page.
- Users can sort replies from newest to oldest, or oldest to newest.
- Users can mention other users in discussion replies by using the @ symbol.

To learn more about these features and more, please visit the Canvas help guides below:

- Announcements Redesign: [Instructor Guide](#) & [Student Guide](#)
- Discussions Redesign: [Instructor Guide](#) & [Student Guide](#)

The call for Spring & Fall 2024 POCR Courses is out!
If you're interested in the POCR process, please contact Nada Nekrep, Cañada POCR Lead (nekrepn@smccd.edu).

Is my course a candidate for POCR?
- The course is fully online (synchronous or asynchronous).
- Canvas course shell is authored solely by the instructor.
- The course shell meets various CVC-OEI Rubric criteria.
- Instructor received DE training (QOTL or equivalent).

What are the benefits of participating in POCR?
- Improved course quality & accessibility = Student success!
- Your QR-badged course gets lined up for the CVC Course Exchange!
- Instructor compensation for time & effort!

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Upcoming Training

Spring 2024 @One Courses Available—and now free!
@One has released their [course offerings for the Spring of 2024](#) and their courses are now free! I've taken almost all of their courses and have found value in every single one. I invite you to sign up for one this semester if you have the bandwidth. ***Note that if you're eligible for online teaching re-certification, certain @One courses are equivalent to QOTL 2.***

2024 QOTL 1 & 2 Cohorts
Below are our QOTL 1 and 2 cohorts for the spring and summer semesters. If you're interested in completing QOTL this year, please email Nada Nekrep, our Online Instruction Coordinator at nekrepn@smccd.edu. Add form to fill out?

- [QOTL 1](#)
  - Spring 2024: April 1 – May 3
  - Summer 2024: June 3 – July 15
- [QOTL 2](#)
  - Spring 2024
    - Cohort 1: February 24 – March 24
    - Cohort 2: April 1 – May 5
  - Summer 2024
    - Cohort 1: June 3 – July 7
    - Cohort 2: June 24 – July 29

SMCCCD Microcourses
Our SMCCCD Instructional Designers have built a series of microcourses that can be completed in about two hours. Upon completion of each course and submission of the course deliverable you will receive a badge of completion. To complete a microcourse:
1. Self-enroll in the course(s) you're interested in. You can enroll in one or more microcourses.
   - Instructor Feedback: https://smccd.instructure.com/enroll/TJJCRT
   - Student-Centered Syllabi: https://smccd.instructure.com/enroll/EKP4PR
   - Ungrading: Part 1: https://smccd.instructure.com/enroll/XWWRWD
2. Complete the course deliverable to obtain your badge.
3. Fill out the short [microcourse feedback survey](#).

Find previous issues on the [Instructional Technology Newsletter page.](#)