

More Faculty Members Turn to High-Tech Teaching

by Willie Pritchard, Vice Chancellor and Chief Technology Officer



Throughout the District, faculty members are increasingly using technology in their classes. Whether it's through complete online or video-based distance-learning courses, hybrid courses that meet both in the classroom and online, or Web-enhanced classroom-based courses, instructors are using technology to enhance their teaching and student learning.

The benefits are numerous to students and instructors – both online and in the classroom. For example, online teaching opens up learning possibilities for individuals who might not otherwise be able to take courses. These class formats enable students to go at their own pace through the material.

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Animations, videos and audio can also help students learn in new ways. Many instructors have found that student participation increases in online courses and that they get to know some of their students even better.

You can find more information about instructional design and the course-development process on the ETS Web site: <http://ets.fhda.edu>. From the home page, click on Departments then Instructional Development.

On the Instructional Development page, you'll also find a link to Teaching with Technology, containing more information and resources. The Technology in Education link on the home page also contains information about multimedia, distance learning, and copyrights and fair use.

Both colleges also have helpful information on their sites at Foothill Global Access (<http://www.foothillglobalaccess.org>) and the De Anza Distance Learning pages (<http://distance.deanza.fhda.edu>).

Technology: A Powerful Teaching Tool



Rosemary Arca, children's literature instructor at Foothill College, was initially torn about whether to teach her class online. She worried that she would lose the dynamic,

interesting, fun discussion she always enjoyed face-to-face with her students in the classroom.

With these concerns in the back of her mind, Arca constructed thoughtful assignments and questions for an online class. She worked with ETS Instructional Development to develop audio files – to enable students to “hear” the power of poems and stories and their oral history. She sought permission to use videotaped story clips, and prepared a virtual pop-up book so that students could experience the 3-D effect online.

To her surprise, the online student participation was greater than in her classrooms. There was more depth and thoughtfulness in the discussions. Arca was hearing from more people online – partly because the shy, reflective or quiet people were more comfortable sharing their opinions during a moderated online discussion.

Increasingly more instructors at Foothill and De Anza Colleges – and at other educational organizations around the globe – are using technology to assist them in teaching and to help improve student learning.

Technology can be used very effectively to teach classes both online and in the classroom. It can be used to make presentations more graphic, comprehensible and interesting to students by incorporating diagrams, pictures, video available on the Web; or enabling an instructor to give lectures and assignments via CD-ROM.

Barbara Illowsky, professor of mathematics and statistics at De Anza College, co-teaches online distance-learning statistics class that features online lectures, video clips, animation, quizzes, and lecture notes with broadcast video.

“Technology helps students learn,” Illowsky said. “Students can repeat lectures at their own pace. Tapes are closed-captioned, which aids both hearing-impaired and those who have difficulty following an instructor's lecture. In addition, online quizzes give immediate feedback so students are aware of their strengths and weaknesses in the targeted materials.”

To date, student feedback to this online course has been positive. “They appreciate the variety of learning opportunities it offers them,” Illowsky said. “The course is available to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Overall, the students feel more in control of their learning.”

Susan Dean, professor of mathematics and statistics at De Anza College, co-teaches the online statistics course. She says technology enables her to do hands-on activities and go deeper into mathematics concepts than in the classroom. *(continued on back page)*

Plan Your Classes to Benefit Students

ETS Instructional Development helps instructors plan, design and develop their online classes to provide the following benefits to students:

- Give a greater number of students access to education. Students can learn, get job skills and advance their careers by taking classes at home when they might not have the time or money to enroll as full-time students.
- Enable students to learn at their own pace with hands-on experience. This is especially beneficial to those already familiar with technology.
- Enable visually impaired students to use screen readers and voice-recognition software, and hearing-impaired students to use video captioning.
- More effectively simulate real-world environments with technology, rather than just with lectures and texts.
- More student-centered, interactive and constructive learning environments – increasingly connecting and involving students with their learning.

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Dean has also benefited from using Tegrity products in her teaching. Tegrity offers a system that can be used to easily create video clips and PowerPoint slides for the Web. Using video clips can help recreate a classroom-like atmosphere online, and PowerPoint slides can be annotated and highlighted during an online presentation. "It's an easy system to use and run on your own," Dean explained. "Tegrity allows me to show examples on the Web as I would in the classroom."

The Foothill College Dental Hygiene Department will soon be teaching an online pharmacology course in dental hygiene.

"We anticipate that students will appreciate the flexibility of being able to access course information at any time," said Phyllis Spragge, director and instructor for the Foothill College Dental Hygiene Program. "This will also allow students who can't come to the class to take the course."

Spragge has an Etudes site for her courses, with pictures, videos of procedures, homework and other student resources. She also plans to teach an online Dental Ethics and Law course in the spring.

"We think all students benefit from technology," adds Patti Walter Chan, part-time clinical instructor for the Dental Hygiene Program. "The healthcare field is becoming increasingly technology-based, and our students need to be familiar with the use of technology."

Check out the
ETS Website
a rich source of information
about ETS and technology.
<http://ets.fhda.edu>

Upcoming Town Hall on Technology, Learning

On March 6, De Anza College will host a Town Hall Meeting, where faculty will demonstrate how they use technology to enhance instruction in their curriculum areas.

The meeting is scheduled to be held from 3-4:30 p.m. in Conference Room B of the Hinson Center. All District administrators, faculty and staff are welcome to attend. The following faculty members are scheduled to present:

1. Susan Dean/Barbara Illowsky, Physical Science/Math/Engineering Division
2. Julie Phillips, Biological and Health Sciences Division
3. Marshall Hatori, Language Arts Division
4. Zaki Lisha, Creative Arts Division
5. Judith Johnson, Business/Computer Science Division
6. Dan Mitchell, Creative Arts Division
7. Randy Splitter, Language Arts Division
8. Wallis Leslie, Language Arts Division
9. Dorothy Coltrin, Biological and Health Sciences Division

FAQ's

Q: Where can I go on the Web for more information about technology and teaching?

A: Following are a few popular sites. You can find more information and links on the ETS Web site (<http://ets.fhda.edu>).

<http://www.merlot.org>: Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Technology (Merlot), a repository of free, shared learning objects you can incorporate into your lessons.

<http://www.cvc1.org>: California Virtual Campus (CVC), which provides training and resources for faculty and staff at 24 Bay Area community colleges. The organization's goal is to foster collaboration and share expertise in online learning.

<http://one.fhda.edu>: @ONE, established to enhance instruction and services through expanded uses of technology at 108 community colleges in California.

TalkBack

Do you have questions or comments regarding this bulletin, or about any ETS services or projects? Please e-mail newsbytes@fhda.edu and we'll provide answers one-on-one or in the next issue of *News Bytes*.

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