the QUEST

Increasing student learning through improved engagement!

Summer 2013

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QEP

Technology

10 of the best apps for higher education via eCampus News

eCampus News has published an article naming 10 of the best Apple and Android apps for higher education in 2013. View full article for additional information.

Below are a few applications highlighted from this article that you may find useful as you prepare for your next semester.

STUDYBLUE
Unzip your digital backpack. Makes studying efficient and effective for every student. Flip online flashcards for fast feedback on what you know, then re-study concepts you've not yet mastered using Study Filters. Review class notes or make flashcards whenever you have a minute to spare.
- ✓ Flashcards: use text, pictures, and audio
- ✓ Study Stats: focus on toughest materials, go hard on the "wrongs", and take pride in your progress
- ✓ Reminders: alerts put an end to forgetting about those 67 biology terms you have to study
- ✓ Messages: contact classmates to ask questions or collaborate
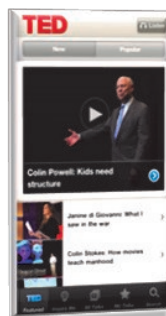
TED
Riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world. Presents talks from some of the world's most fascinating people: education radicals, tech geniuses, medical mavericks, business gurus and music legends. This app updates almost everyday with new talks from TED events around the world.
- ✓ Browse the entire library any time, even when you're not online
- ✓ Create your own playlist
- ✓ Download full videos to your device and watch them when you're offline

KHAN ACADEMY
Allows you to learn almost anything for free. A massive number of topics are covered, including K-12 math, science topics such as biology, chemistry, and physics, and even the humanities with playlists on finance and history.

Spend an afternoon brushing up on statistics. Discover how the Krebs cycle works. Learn about the fundamentals of computer science. Or, if you're feeling particularly adventurous, learn how fire stick farming changed the landscape of Australia.

POPPLET LITE
This app is great for work or school. It is a platform for your ideas—it's super simple interface allows you to move at the speed of your thoughts. You can capture your ideas and sort them visually in real time. Quickly and easily! People use Popplet to:
- ✓ Explore Ideas: Brainstorming, Mindmapping
- ✓ Plan Projects: Diagrams, Process Charts
- ✓ Record Thoughts: Journals, Notes, Lists
- ✓ Create Galleries: Photo Albums, Portfolios, Presentations
- ✓ Study: School Projects, Class Notes

FLIPBOARD
Flipboard is your own personal magazine. It is the most popular way to catch up on the news you care about, discover amazing things from around the world, or stay connected to the people closest to you.
- ✓ Pick from topics to start reading everything from world news to sports, travel and more
- ✓ Add popular publications such as the New York Times
- ✓ Find thousands of websites, RSS feeds and interesting sources like Politico and Brain Pickings
- ✓ Explore magazines created on Flipboard "By Our Readers"

VC INNOVATION CENTER
Stay up to date with the latest technology through the VC Innovation Center in Blackboard. Also watch for professional development sessions offered during the Summer and Fall semesters.

Transforming Curriculum & Instruction

2013-14 QEP Pilot Projects

2013-14 VCONNECTED TEAM

The 2013-2014 VConnected Team has been selected! The following are general summaries of their projects which will begin in the Fall 2013 semester.

BRAD BEAUCHAMP

The goal of this project is to increase student engagement in mathematics courses through the use of SmartBoard technology. The whiteboard is beginning to be seen as antiquated in our technology rich culture. The use of computers and projectors is great in many courses, but the inability to make many annotations on a projected image cause projectors to be ineffective in math courses. Student discussion often causes a lesson to take a drastically different direction than originally planned, and the static nature of a projected image does not allow this. The interactive and tactile nature of the SmartBoard promotes class discussion and interactive learning.

In addition to creating interactive lesson plans, the recording capabilities of the SmartBoard will be used to create permanent artifacts of group projects completed in class, which can be posted for all students to reference throughout the course. This will be particularly useful for online students who do not have the advantage of the classroom experience.

This project specifically targets both a general education and course outcome for MATH 1314. One of the general core competencies is that "students will apply an understanding of mathematical…principles and methods to solve abstract and practical problems". This general education outcome ties directly to the MATH 1314 course outcome "demonstrate and apply knowledge of …functions."

Assessment will take place through analysis of student surveys. A case-study comparison will be conducted detailing how student engagement and interaction was increased. Assessment related to student learning and achievement of course outcomes will be achieved through group projects dedicated to investigating the application of functions to real-world problems. Also, students will prepare and give a dynamic presentation using the interactive capabilities of the smart board.

MISTI BROCK

Place based education will be introduced in Composition II as a strategy to teach writing for attitude learning: attending, responding, valuing, organization, and characterization. Research suggests that place-based education increases the success rate, particularly in writing courses, for any number of reasons: we write what we know; we are more vested in issues that may have a direct impact on us in some manner; we are more interested in material that allows for exploration of our history or roots. In the literature unit, students will look specifically at works by local/regional writers.

Students will be able to better accomplish the following student learning outcomes:
1. Identify the general and specific settings and comment on the significance of that setting to that work.
2. Develop or express a statement of theme (author's purpose) inherent in the work.

The project will be assessed by measuring improvement in understanding of argument methods as they pertain to literature; in understanding of literary elements as they exist in the literature; and by measuring student attitude toward the understanding of national and/or world issues.

JANE ROBINSON

This project aims to assist students with their need for connection with needed resources for enrollment and retention at Vernon College. Mrs. Robinson will research resources available to students in each of the twelve counties in our service area. This information will then be made available through printed pamphlets, on the Vernon College website, and through face-to-face or phone contact with the New Beginnings Office. Mrs. Robinson will work directly with students to provide the encouragement and information that will benefit them and allow them to succeed, by eliminating some of the outside stressors that may hinder the educational process. Additionally, these resources will be promoted during registration with posters, brochures, etc.

Vernon College scored significantly lower than the Texas Small Colleges Consortium on two CCSSE questions: How much does this college emphasize each of the following?
1. Providing the support you need to help you succeed at this college and
2. Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.).
It is a goal of this project to assist in providing this type of support.

Two program outcomes are targeted in this project. First, to successfully connect students and prospective students with needed information about resources both on and off Vernon College campuses

QEP Pilot Projects Con't

to help them enroll and stay in classes until completion of their educational goal. Second, to create a resource information base of each of the twelve counties served by Vernon College to be able to readily provide students the information that they need to access financial resources to allow them to complete their chosen course of studies.

Assessment will include surveying students/prospective students who have been served/contacted; tracking students assisted and follow-up contact through email; tracking retention (may include "did they actually enroll" or "completion of courses that semester"); and follow-up with students regarding usefulness of resources.
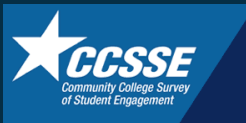
JASON SCHELLER
The objective of this project is to determine if students enrolled in a "flipped" classroom model will attain better assessment scores than those enrolled in a traditional face-to-face lecture course. Content will be posted in Blackboard using SoftChalk software. This will include video, secondary/primary sources, photos, links, and various other interactive tools. Skype (video conferencing app) will then be used to meet with students outside of class to discuss content, projects, and work through any gaps in learning prior to class. Class time will be used to assess students on their ability to make a valid argument and back up those arguments with historical evidence.

The following student learning outcomes will be targeted.
1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Students weekly activities will be assessed through a series of questions using SoftChalk. Each student's weaknesses will be addressed during class time in a round table discussion format. Additionally, the midterm and final exam will be used to determine effectiveness.
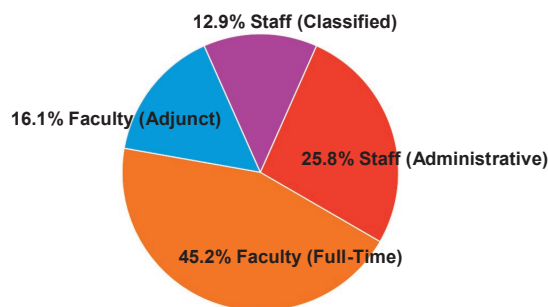
Assessment

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT RESOURCE INVENTORY (QERI) SURVEY
90 responses were received as of May 16, 2013. The pie chart below shows the classification percentages of the respondents.

12.9% Staff (Classified)
16.1% Faculty (Adjunct)
25.8% Staff (Administrative)
45.2% Faculty (Full-Time)

Employees were asked how often educational technologies were used to support instruction or job responsibilities. The following are the most used educational technologies at VC according to responses.

QERI TOP 11
1. Presentation software (e.g., PowerPoint)
2. Cell phone for text messaging
3. Audio/video clips
4. Streaming videos (e.g., YouTube, Helix)
5. Cell phone for web browsing or applications
6. Digital camera (including cell phone or iPad camera)
7. iPad
8. Camcorder (including webcam, cell phone, or iPad)

9, 10, 11
   *Video conferencing (e.g., Wimba, Skype, Facetime)
   *Survey tools (e.g., Survey Monkey, Google Docs)
   *Video editing software (e.g., Camtasia, Premier)
*Tied

The results of the full survey will be presented to the President, Deans, Division Chairs, and various committees this summer.

CCSSE AND CCFSSE
The results of the 2013 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and the Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE) will be made available during Fall Semester Kickoff in August 2013.

Congratulations to our faculty for 100% participation on the CCFSSE!!!

SENSE
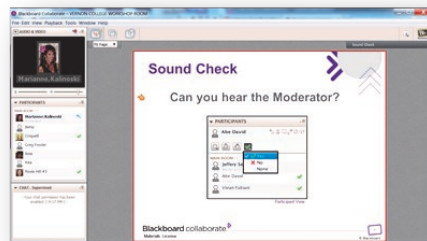The Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) will be administered in September 2013.

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Professional Development

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Vernon Campus:
VC Innovation Center
Library RM 208

Century City Center:
VC Innovation Center
RM 708

Skills Training Center:
VC Innovation Center
RM 400

BLACKBOARD COLLABORATE TRAINING
Vernon College has upgraded from Wimba Live Classroom to Blackboard Collaborate Web Conferencing due to the fact that Wimba is no longer available. Trainings will be offered this summer with priority given to those instructors and staff who currently

use Wimba. However, the sessions will also be open to any employees interested in using this great tool in the future. Sessions will continue to be offered throughout the Fall semester. A full schedule will be emailed the first of June.

Blackboard Collaborate is best used for synchronous sessions, application share, video conferencing and helps create an interactive classroom experience.

IPADS IN THE CLASSROOM2
Roxie will be offering this session again during Summer and Fall. This session differs from the first (offered in January) in that it is an entire lesson taught using the iPad and various apps. You will experience a lesson as your students or audience would. As we move forward with our use of iPads in the classroom, we want to continue to share best practices and useful apps. Please join us and share your ideas too!

SUMMER SCHEDULE
Roxie Hill
Vernon—Tuesday
CCC—Wednesday

Criquett Lehman
Vernon—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
CCC — Wednesday

We can be available at any campus by appointment. Please contact Roxie if you would like to schedule individual or department trainings.

DID YOU KNOW?
Jessica Sutherland used the iPad and SlideShark app to present her Spring Forward presentations to potential dual credit high school students this semester. At schools where Wi-Fi was available, she was able to toggle between SlideShark and the internet to navigate the portal and demonstrate how to register for classes and other important steps. For those without internet access, she was able to use screenshots within SlideShark for a similar effect.

DID YOU KNOW?
To create a more interactive lesson, Brad Beauchamp uses the genius tablet in his ITV courses. The tablet functions as a whiteboard in that it allows you to make handwritten notes and drawings on any computer application program (e.g., PowerPoint). Students are able to view the instructors notes/annotations on the existing PowerPoint lesson.

DID YOU KNOW?
As part of her QEP project, Katrina Brasuell used videos as a self assessment tool for students. They were filmed performing certain skills and asked to view the videos individually or in groups. The use for identifying errors in skills assessment has proven beneficial. After showing the students their mistakes, most corrected the problem before the next class period. Mrs. Brasuell saw a marked

improvement in their Process Validations on the lab final exam.

DID YOU KNOW?
Melissa Elliott has created 2 additional educational video tutorials to add to her library. "Why I chose VC" is one student's testimonial on how financial aid helped her decision to attend college. "Financial Aid 101" was created to walk students through the application process as well as provide them useful tips.

DID YOU KNOW?
The student portal, MyVC, has undergone a facelift...the following tabs are now available: Home, Student, Campus Connect, Blackboard, Help. The new layout gives students access to various resources in the portal and on the VC website as well as outside sources such as Career Coach. Also, an Announcements/Deadlines section has been added to keep students apprised of important VC information.