

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



ULTRA PILOT PROGRAM:

BLACKBOARD ULTRA – COMING SOON

Lewis University and the Faculty Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning are pleased to announce that starting in Fall 2020 we will begin offering support for early adopters of the new Blackboard Ultra Learning environment.

In preparation for this adoption the Faculty Center will begin a Blackboard Ultra Pilot Program starting in Summer 2020. The program will help prepare faculty to work in the new Ultra environment. Currently, adoption of the new Ultra environment for existing courses is based on department and college leaders. Instructors looking to rebuild an existing course, or create new courses in the Ultra environment should contact their program chairs. Here are some of the key improvements that you can expect to see in the Ultra environment:

Modern Look & Feel: With updated colors, fonts, and spacing, you'll notice a more modern and visually appealing look and feel.

Consistency Across Your Devices*: Expect a more uniform experience across all your devices, making it easier for you to switch from your laptop or computer to your phone or tablet.

A Better Mobile Experience: With more tools and features optimized for your mobile browser, it'll be easier for you to complete activities on-the-go from your phone or tablet.

For more information, please visit the Faculty Center website or view the Learn Ultra Announcement resources on the Lewis University Blackboard Institutional Page.

BLACKBOARD ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR NEW FACULTY

The Blackboard Orientation Workshop for New Faculty provides an introductory overview of how to use the University Learning Management System, Blackboard. The workshop is offered in person or online at the beginning and end of each semester for faculty joining the University. Participants will learn how to create announcements, post grades in the grade center, upload basic content such as the syllabus, and how to collect assignments.

[You can register for this event as well as all other workshops here.](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

LEWIS UNIVERSITY ONLINE TEACHING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

The Online Teaching Professional Development Series provides Lewis University faculty and adjunct faculty the opportunity to continue to their professional development in online teaching and learning. The series is comprised of continuing education courses in best practices in online pedagogy. Courses are either completely self-paced or instructor led in an asynchronous format. Offerings span three weeks to six weeks depending on the course you choose.

Sessions are completely online and tailored to the Lewis University online teaching experience. Participants will be engaged in meaningful discussion and practice on timely online pedagogy theory and best practices. The prerequisite for all courses is the successful completion of the Lewis University Online Teaching Certification.

For upcoming sessions for the series as well as all of our workshops, you can [click here to register](#).

ACADEMIC CONTENT CREATOR ACADEMY

The Academic Content Creator Academy is coming this Summer. This advanced self-paced online Blackboard course is designed for instructors with previous Blackboard experience who wish to learn more about how to create rich supplemental content for their courses. The course will explore basic concepts related to creating digital audio, video, image, and photo assets optimized for the Blackboard learning environment. This is part of the **Lewis University Online Teaching Professional Development Series**.

For more information, please contact **Andy Alton** in the Faculty Center, or [visit our website](#).

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

BUILDING BETTER CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

You've been working for months leading up to this moment. Reviewing your course text, gathering materials, and contemplating how you will meet all of your course objectives. Now the time has arrived where you must start considering your pedagogical approach. As you begin to outline this you start thinking about that term everyone keeps using – student engagement. Sure, you have heard the term before, but *what exactly* does student engagement mean?

Follow the link to learn more about [how to increase student engagement and build better classroom learning environments](#).

FLYERS & FRIENDS LEWIS UNIVERSITY PODCAST

CATCH UP ON YOUR FAVORITE FACULTY CENTER PODCAST !

Flyers & Friends is seeking new guests! If you know someone who you think would be an interesting guest for this upcoming series, let us know! Or if you, yourself, are interested in participating, please reach out to **ANDY ALTON** in the Faculty Center!

You can access all current and past *Flyers & Friends* podcast episodes by accessing our Faculty Center homepage or you can listen to it **HERE!**

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING COURSE VIDEO CONTENT DEMYSTIFYING BEST PRACTICE

Incorporating multimedia video content into education dates back almost as far as the invent of film itself. Reel-to-reel movies, film strips with cassettes and VHS tapes are all part of the evolution of multimedia in the classroom environment. Although advancements in technology have changed, the use multimedia as a tool for disseminating informing still remains the same. However, unlike the linear delivery methods of the past, asynchronous video streaming is now commonly embedded into Learning Management System (LMS –Blackboard, D2L, Canvas...) course shells. Access to rich multimedia content has become an expectation of learners engaging in active learning environments.

Deploying asynchronous video (pre-recorded video intended for later viewing) content in courses is not without challenges. While asynchronous video has successfully increased access for learners, content creation presents more challenges than ever for developers. Issues concerning production costs, equipment requirements, training, quality control, video length, accessibility, reusability and hosting platform are just a few concerns. Whether the educational deliver method is in the classroom, a blended/ hybrid course, or fully online, it is important to evaluate and implement best practices for multimedia content delivery. Follow this link to read more about [how to successfully implement course video content](#).

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

We congratulate the faculty below for representing Lewis University at the following conferences! The Faculty Development Committee is accepting proposals for the 2019-2020 school year. **Read more about the application process for faculty here.**

To see who is presenting and attending, **visit [HERE](#)**

OUR TEAM

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