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Issue 6 Fall 2013

Distance Education

What's New in Distance Education

Faculty Focus



Tanya Gatenby, in Health Care Management is no stranger to online courses. She has had 6 classes approved and has a Master of Public Health certificate online. This semester, she has a student, Gifty Tuffour, from Ghana and has worked with her to ensure she could take all her classes online.

Gifty Tuffour is an international student from Ghana in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at West Chester University. It was a tough decision for her to leave her job and travel to Ghana this fall. She got married in Ghana in June, and stayed for family reasons. She was so happy that she could stay in Ghana and complete the required courses for the MPH program, because the Health Care Management courses are delivered 100% online. Gifty feels "online classes are very convenient and flexible." Gifty said "distance education is awesome because I can be in any part of the world to accomplish my dream".



Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Online

Targeted for the advanced practice nurse with a graduate degree in nursing. The program is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to a research-focused doctorate. It is a 35-credit program which has been approved by the PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Board of Governors and is the first doctoral program at West Chester University. Focusing on skills such as collaboration, innovation and evaluation, supplemented by advanced practice nursing skills, nurses will shape the future of health care. Courses are taught by qualified WCU faculty, many of whom are advance practice nurses.

Distance Education / Teaching, Learning and Assessment Initiative

DE and the TLAC have teamed up to present a new initiative to transform high impact face to face courses to blended/online courses. Eighteen participants were selected to form a cohort to increase access to courses through the use of distance education course delivery. This initiative will also address testing and assessing new pedagogies that center around student centered, active, inquiry based, resource-oriented learning communities that will improve the learning experience. This cohort will meet in the Spring of 2014.

Students and Technology

Educause Center for Analysis and Research (ECAR) 2013 survey for undergrad students found students value the ways in which technology helps them achieve their academic goals and prepares them for their future academic and workplace activities. Students surveyed say:

Technology helps me:

- ◆ Prepare for the workplace (61%)
- ◆ Prepare for future educational plans (76%)
- ◆ Achieve my academic outcomes (76%)



2/3 of students said most/all of their instructors have:

- ◆ Adequate technical skills
- ◆ Use technology effectively

Top 5 in-class uses for smartphones:



- 1 To look up information
- 2 To photograph information
- 3 To access digital resources
- 4 To record my instructors
- 5 To participate in activities

Meet our Instructional Designers



Our Instructional Designer, **Stephanie Taitano**, MA, has spent twenty years developing educational technologies, including design and delivery for fully online, blended, and web-enhanced coursework. She has taught communications and writing courses at the University of Texas at Arlington, Saddleback College, Rowan University, and Gloucester County College.

Contact : staitano@wcupa.edu or call 610-430-5844

Marc Drumm, M.Ed. was recently hired as an Instructional Design Specialist in the Office of Distance Education. For the past 14 years, he has specialized in web design and development, integrating technology into educational environments, and utilizing emerging technologies. He's previously held positions at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Delaware.



Contact: mdrumm@wcupa.edu or call 610-436-2278



On-site Faculty Support Hours and Locations

Distance Education Instructional Designers are now in Main, Anderson, Sturzebecker and Graduate Business Center.

Please access the link below for days and times:

<http://www.wcupa.edu/distanceed/onSite.asp>

Updates

Future DE workshops will now be included on the monthly Software Application Training calendar

Distance Education Events

Fall

10/30/13 Open House

Panel Discussion led by online faculty discussed their experience with online courses.

11/13/13 Pennsylvania Distance Learning Associate Conference (PADLA)

Distance Education sponsored the annual PADLA conference this year with keynote speaker Dr. Marc Rosenberg, breakout sessions and vendor expo. It was very well attended with over 120 participants.

Spring

1/2/14 —1/15/14 Online/Blended Faculty Development Program

This program provides training and resources for faculty who are interested in developing hybrid/online courses. A call for participation will be sent in December. This program will be delivered **100% online** and meets the CAPC requirement.

Did you know ?

The Center for Digital Education, in partnership with Sonic Foundry, has just completed the first in-depth, national survey on faculty perspectives of flipped classrooms. The finding shows:

- ◆ **75 %** of faculty indicates that preparing for a flipped classroom takes more time than a traditional class
- ◆ Despite this, the overwhelming majority – **83 %** of faculty – “strongly agree” or “agree” that the model positively impacted their attitude towards teaching.



Contact Us

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Fall 2013 Distance Education Enrollment Data

- 31 online courses (577 students)
- 13 blended courses (874 students)
- 7 ITV courses (59 students)