



WaveLength

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Special points of interest:

- Technology
- Blackboard
- Distance Learning
- DDL, Inside & Out

Small Changes Can Create Big Motivation

Perhaps a New Year's resolution of better study habits has been squashed by the stack of DVD's collecting dust on the counter. If you're just not feeling motivated to get online and start the coursework, don't fret! A few small changes could lead the way to motivation for a great performance in distance learning courses. Here are a few tips that might help jump-start that motivational hurdle:

Stop the procrastination!

This is the distance learning student's greatest enemy. Don't think that waiting until the last minute to watch all those DVD's and take multiple tests in a day will work out...it rarely does. By waiting too long, procrastinators can either experience poor performance or end up not finishing the class

at all resulting in a big fat "F" (and, who wants that skeleton in the closet?) If you fall into this category, consider teaming up with a distance learning classmate early in the semester via email or chat room. Students can provide support for one another to prevent getting behind.

Clean up that desk or home office space...

No one likes to work in the midst of old newspapers and last semester's term paper proofs plastered together with green gummy bears and soda glass rings. Clean off that desk and let it 'breathe' again. Start the semester off by organizing class materials including textbooks and reference guides within easy reach of your work area. If you don't have a suitable study area, make one.

Many a dining room table has turned into home office space. Just make sure it is quiet and peaceful and remember, it is never too late to get the desk straight!

Build an online social life with peers and faculty...

These folks can help you stay connected to studies. Some of the relationships formed throughout college can last for a lifetime too.


Take time for yourself.

More often than not, distance learners are holding down jobs, juggling a family and/or making other commitments that eat up spare time. Always make time for you! If not, personal neglect can take a toll both physically and emotionally. So always make time for No. 1. After all, you are going to college to better yourself, right?

Customize a Blackboard Tab

Like to read a copy of the New York Times? Need a dictionary for class work? Interested in Movie Showtimes or TV Listings?

Blackboard can provide all of this information at your fingertips and in one convenient place.

1. Click on the Contents button 
2. Check the modules you

want to appear in your SWCC tab. Click the submit button at the bottom of the screen.



The SWCC tab is the only tab that can be customized in this manner.

If you select a module and decide later you would like to remove it.

Click close button in the upper

right corner of the module.

Modules without a close button are designated as essential and cannot be removed from the SWCC tab.

If further instruction is needed, please contact the Blackboard Administrator at stacy.harris@sw.edu.





Visit dealcatcher.com for the best deals online!

Website of the Month

Shopping online is convenient and competitive. Most of us have visited multiple websites in an effort to find the best deal available whether it be a hotel stay, new furniture or that newly released MP3 player.

Comparison sites have been around for a while such as priceline.com, amazon.com, and edealinfo.com. Normally, just type in what you are wanting to purchase and these sites search the web to find

the best prices. On the downside, they do not always include additional information such as coupons and promotional events.

The latest site to include new deals and coupons with pricing is dealcatcher.com.

At dealcatcher.com, the products are sifted by combining price and special offers. The site is extremely easy to navigate and to make a

purchase, simply click on the desired item/deal and you are rerouted to the appropriate page.

Suggestions or comments: lanna.lumpkins@sw.edu

dealcatcher
catch the best deals online



Need a Job? We Can Help!

We all know that to net a good job, it takes a great deal beyond academics to be ready to enter the world of work. Each spring, SwVCC offers a series of career events to prepare students for a positive job search. Students are encouraged to attend all of the networking opportunities available through these clinics and fairs.

SwVCC Job Search Clinics
Date: February 26-March 1, 2007—
Location: B-130 and CC Conference Rooms (Exact times,

topics and rooms will be posted on CRC website: www.sw.edu/career by 2/1/07.)— Eight powerful workshops designed to polish SwVCC students' presentation and job seeking skills; sponsored by SwVCC Educational Opportunity Center/Career Resource

Center

Bluefield State Job Fair

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.—**Location:** Bluefield



State College Gym, Rte. 52, Bluefield, WV— Co-sponsored by: Bluefield State College, Bluefield College, Concord College, Southwest Virginia Community College, and Wytheville Community College

SwVCC's Career Connection and Healthcare Fair

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.—**Location:** SwVCC Gym—Sponsored by SwVCC Educational Opportunity

Center/Career Resource Center

Interstate Career Fair

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2007 from noon - 5:00 p.m.—**Location:** Exit 7, Interstate 81, Holiday Inn Conference Rooms, 3005 Linden Drive, Bristol, TN— Co-Sponsored by: The Interstate Career Council—19

community colleges, colleges and universities from Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee, Western North Carolina, and Southern West Virginia

For more information on these employment opportunities, please contact [Sharon Peery](mailto:Sharon.Peery@sw.edu) (964.7554)

