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Distance Learning Today

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Priority One: Helping DDL Students Succeed

Most of us know of at least one or more students that have taken and not completed a distance learning course. With the beginning of a new year, this is the optimum time to help students make the most of their distance learning experience. Advisors can begin by assessing students to see if they possess the motivation and commitment to learn. This includes more than a casual, "You know, you could always take that class online or via DVD." It is important that we know students' dedication and follow-through levels.

Another item to consider is if the student has access to the technology required by the

course design on a regular basis. Don't assume, ask. If it is a streaming course, what type of internet connection does he/she have? Or, do they have a DVD or VHS player?

Also, some students may not be aware or may need to be reacquainted with the research and library services that are available. Our library personnel can provide students with hands-on training to help them secure material through electronic database, interlibrary loans, government archives, news services and other sources.

Throughout the course, instructors should remind

students that they have access to technical assistance, including detailed instructions regarding the media used. Practice sessions regarding technical usage periodically may additionally be deemed useful.

On a final note, please remind our students that the DDL office is here to help, whether it is answering questions, helping them acquire necessary software or facilitating instructor / student contact.



How Do I Activate My Classes in Bb?

The end of the semester is near. So it's time to gear up for spring! When ready, please activate your classes.

How do I activate or "turn on" my class?

1. You must log into BB and go to the class you plan to make active.
2. Click on the Control Panel

3. Select Setting. Setting is located in the Course Option section (First column-3rd option in group) Choose Settings.

4. Select Course Availability
5. Select Yes
6. Click the submit button
7. Click the OK button

After you have finished your fall class, please make fall classes

unavailable. If you have students who have incompletes, you need to leave those active until all students have completed the course.

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



Website of the Month



Visit dealcatcher.com for the best deals online!

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 edea.info. 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

Be sure to remind students of the opportunities available for networking and employment.



Helping Our Students Find Employment

Students need to know 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 experience. Without incentives/encouragement/motivation from Faculty, students do not take advantage of these or other great campus activities. So, once again, we are asking for your assistance in motivating/encouraging students to improve their ability to make positive connections with Employers.

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 9:00am-2:00pm—**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)

