

YOUR CCC TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CONNECTION

Our CETC Ambassador will be the influential and knowledgeable advocate and primary on-campus resource who will consistently promote systemwide CETC services at our California Community College campuses.

CALIFORNIA VIRTUAL CAMPUS



TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Faculty
- Staff
- Students

HISTORY:

- The California Virtual Campus (CVC) was established in July 1999 to support development and delivery of online learning in California community colleges.
- Through the maintenance of an online distance education program and course catalog, CVC also supports other regionally accredited higher education institutions in California.
- The CVC originally consisted of five individual grants from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to Cerro Coso, Coastline, De Anza, El Camino and Rio Hondo Colleges. Beginning in mid-2005, Butte College will assume sole responsibility for CVC.

DESCRIPTION:

California Virtual Campus Catalog:

- As of July 1, 2005, the Catalog included 227 programs and some 5,600 courses from 139 institutions.
- More than 4,500 of those were online (Web) courses and the remainder principally telecourses.
- On the basis of usage increases in recent years, the Catalog is projected to have 350,000-400,000 visitors during 2005.
- The catalog can be accessed at <http://www.cvc.edu/catalog>

The CVC Professional Development Center (PDC) Website

The California Virtual Campus publishes information related to online education at its websites and especially at the PDC website - <http://pdc.cvc.edu/common>. Available information excerpts from current news stories, essays and opinion pieces, tips for teaching online and "courselets." Courselets are targeted at faculty and staff who want to learn about a topic but don't have time to take a full-length course.

The PDC website also hosts a repository for learning objects and makes available two "RSS" news feeds to others who would like to subscribe to them. "RSS" is a format for syndicating news and news-like content in Web Sites. Virtually anything that can be broken down into discrete items of information can be syndicated via RSS. Syndication means that the item can be made available to other websites that would like to subscribe to a particular news feed.

Listserv and Newsletters: The CVC project also supports a listserv and prepares newsletters as a means of communicating with thousands of faculty, staff and students.

CVC Prize: The CVC believes that there should be recognition of outstanding online courses created by faculty at their various institutions. Beginning in 2000, the CVC has awarded cash prizes to faculty whose online course websites were deemed exemplary by a panel of judges. More information about the CVC prize is at <http://pdc.cvc.edu/cvaward>.

The MERLOT Project: The CVC has also coordinated system participation in the MERLOT Project. The MERLOT (Multimedia Education Resource for Learning & Online Teaching) Project's mission is to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning by expanding the quantity and quality of peer-reviewed computer-related learning materials that can be easily incorporated into courses. Resource sites in 14 academic fields such as mathematics, chemistry, physics, music, history, psychology and world languages are currently under development. Faculty peer reviewers have been selected from 22 participating higher-education systems and institutions in the United States and Canada, including the California State University, Cornell University and the Universities of Michigan, Wisconsin and North Carolina. The MERLOT website can be accessed at <http://www.merlot.org/Home.po>.

CVC Conferences: The California Virtual Campus has held one or more conferences every year since 2000, including what we believe was the world's first conference specializing in online student services in higher education. The spring 2003 conference was web cast to participants throughout the United States. A reduction in the CVC budget for 2003-04 made it impossible to continue holding face-to-face conferences. However, in collaboration with CCC Confer, CVCC did develop an e-conferencing capability and used that in spring 2004 for a "virtual conference" that attracted more than 400 participants. Another virtual conference was held in April 2005. There were more than 1,000 registrants. There was no charge for participation. The conference website is re-usable and can be used to host future virtual conferences.

HOSTING OF ONLINE COURSES:

CVC has also provided CMS administrative services for colleges that requested these services. These services included archiving completed courses, creating new course "shells", and providing technical support to faculty. Many institutions, especially small ones, lack the technical staff to undertake these functions themselves. As part of the reorganization of CVC, and in collaboration with the Foundation for CCC, the project will be transitioning these functions back to participating colleges, while providing the option to transition to enterprise course management systems at a centralized hosting facility which will also offer 24 X 7 help desk support for faculty and students.

BENEFITS/EXAMPLES OF USE:

- The CVC Catalog serves as a clearinghouse for information about distance programs and courses. The Catalog is intended to make it easier for students to find information about distance education courses they might wish to take – and not just courses at one institution, but at any participating institution whose requirements they could meet.
- A student could find the same information, by reading each individual institution's printed catalog or by visiting its website, but this is a very lengthy and inefficient process when searching dozens of separate institutions.
- The catalog contains course and program descriptions and terms during which courses were typically offered – fall, winter or summer, for instance. Further information is provided about course delivery modes (for example, Internet or broadcast television), course fees and sometimes course requirements. When a student identifies a course they want to take, they can use a supplied hyperlink to the website of the college or university offering the course. There they can get further information and even register for the course.

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