



# Spectrum

Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115

## Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Events

### Spring 2002

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**Unlock the Door To Learning for Students With Disabilities** – This is a three-part workshop series which begins with a workshop titled “Instructional Considerations for Students With Disabilities” by Nancy Long (Communicative Disorders) and Nancy Kasinski (Center for Access-Ability Resources) on February 21, 2002 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The series continues on March 21, 2002 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm with a workshop on “Universal Instructional Design” by Hope Long (Communicative Disorders) and ends on April 24, 2002 with a workshop from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm titled “Accessible Web Design” by Laura Miller (Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center).

These workshops are designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to accommodating the needs of students with disabilities. Teaching faculty who attend all three workshops will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible to apply for integration stipends (made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education) to transform their courses. For more information about the workshop series and stipend applications, contact Regina Fernandes, Multicultural Curriculum Coordinator, at [reginaf@niu.edu](mailto:reginaf@niu.edu) or 753-8557.

**Conference on Accommodative teaching and Assistive Technologies** – This is a statewide conference funded by a HECA grant from the state of Illinois and hosted by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center on Friday, May 31, 2002 from 8 am to 4:30 pm in the Holmes Student Center at NIU. The conference is intended for faculty and staff from academic institutions, vendors of assistive technologies, and staff from disability service agencies. The conference will provide participants with an opportunity to meet leaders in the field, learn about innovative pedagogical techniques, view demonstrations of assistive technologies, and share ideas on effective institutional support for accommodating the needs of students with disabilities and helping them succeed. For more information about the conference, check the website at <http://www.niu.edu/facdev/information/conferences.html> or contact the Center at [facdev@niu.edu](mailto:facdev@niu.edu) or 753-0595.

**Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Institute** – The Provost’s Task Force on Multicultural Curriculum Transformation will host its ninth annual institute during May 14- 22, 2002 at the Holmes Student Center at NIU. The institute is designed to assist tenured and tenure-track faculty members in incorporating multicultural perspectives and content into their teaching and courses, leading to curricular as well as personal transformation. The institute format includes plenary addresses by invited scholars, presentations by NIU faculty, panel discussions, syllabi feedback sessions, video presentations, and group activities that focus on issues related to race, ethnicity, gender, social class, sexual orientation, and disabilities. Applications for participation are due on Friday, March 1, 2002 and the application guidelines can be found under the “Institute” section of the website at: <http://www.niu.edu/mcti/> For more information, contact Murali Krishnamurthi, Chair, Provost’s Task Force on Multicultural Curriculum Transformation at [mcti@niu.edu](mailto:mcti@niu.edu) or 753-6502.

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#### Deadlines to Note

Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Institute: March 1, 2002
David Raymond Grant for the Use of Technology in Teaching: March 8, 2002
Faculty Development Grants for July – December 2002: April 12, 2002
Supportive Professional Staff Development Grants for July-December 2002: April 19, 2002

# January 2002 Teaching Effectiveness Institute Recap

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Virginia Anderson

The sixth Teaching Effectiveness Institute held on January 10-11, 2002 by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center was attended by more than 120 faculty and staff. This two-day event was designed to promote good teaching and encourage faculty to share best practices at NIU. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, a daylong workshop titled, **“Testing and Grading for Enhancing Student Learning,”** was presented by Dr. Virginia Anderson, Professor of Biological Sciences at Towson University, Maryland.

Dr. Anderson covered various aspects of effective testing and grading techniques such as constructing exams and assignments that will test student learning, setting standards and developing explicit criteria for graded assignments guiding students’ learning and communicating with them about grades, and implementing changes in teaching based on data from the grading process, and saving and time and/or sanity in the grading process. Participants were engaged in a variety of interactive exercises during the workshop and networked with each other. All the participants who attended the full workshop received a certificate of completion presented by Provost Ivan J. Legg and a copy of the book “Effective Grading Techniques” co-authored by Dr. Anderson.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, a daylong workshop titled **“Successful Strategies for High Quality Service Learning,”** was presented by Dr. Andy Furco, Director of Service Learning Research and Development Center and Co-Director of Eco Center at the University of California at Berkeley. This workshop explored the benefits of service learning, the various ways it could be incorporated in the academic curriculum, and connected to scholarly agendas.

This workshop was also co-sponsored by the Illinois Campus Compact and attended by a number of faculty from Campus Compact member institutions in the region. The workshop concluded with a brief presentation by Karen Castelein (Career Planning and Placement Center at NIU) on the use of their Victor-E recruiting system for service learning purposes, and certificate presentation by Vice Provost Gary Gresholdt. The Teaching Effectiveness Institute was sponsored with the help of Pepsi Incentive Funds awarded to the Center for 2002.



Andy Furco

## **Technology Showcase -April 10, 2002:**

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***Looking for innovative ways to enhance the teaching and learning experience?***



If so, be certain to mark your calendars and reserve Wednesday, April 10, 2002: the fourth-annual technology showcase of faculty teaching exhibits to be held at the Ballroom at the Holmes Student Center at NIU. Showcase 2002 will include the presentation of technology-enriched projects currently being developed and implemented in teaching and research by NIU faculty.

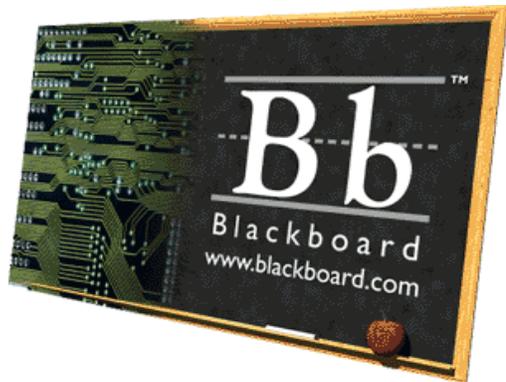
The 2002 NIU Web Awards will be announced at the event and plaques will be presented to this year’s winners. This year’s showcase will also feature exhibits by vendors of educational technologies. Vendor exhibits will include educational hardware and software products as well as projection and video equipment. Blackboard, the web course management system currently being used at NIU will have a representative onsite and many of the companies that have established partnerships with Blackboard have also been invited to exhibit their products that support online teaching.

A new feature of the 2002 event will be spotlight presentations on technology topics by faculty members and campus support units. The topics and schedule of these spotlight presentations will be announced in advance so that Showcase attendees can plan their visit to the Showcase to coincide with presentations of their interest.

The Showcase is free and open to all NIU faculty, staff, and students, and the community. For more information, check the Showcase 2002 web site at <http://www.niu.edu/showcase>

# Blackboard Upgrade

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Since last fall, staff from the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, Information Technology Services (ITS), and Registration and Records have worked collaboratively to upgrade the Blackboard web course management system at NIU from Level I version 5.0 to Level III Version 5.5. Over the winter break, ITS staff worked diligently to install and test the upgraded version. Blackboard 5.5 has several new features that make it easier for faculty to develop and deliver courses online.

The most significant result of the upgrade is the move to level III that allows the system to interface with course enrollment data available from Registration and Records. Due to this interface the roster for each class on Blackboard is automatically updated daily without requiring faculty or students to enter the enrollment information. The system also allows users to use the same login id for Blackboard as they do for logging into

the campus network. Many faculty members have stated that they really appreciate the automatic creation of course rosters in Blackboard; others contend they would not want to go back to teaching without Blackboard.

The Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center is in the process of updating informational materials posted online for Blackboard users. This will include a Blackboard 5.5 FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), instructions for student and faculty users. The informational materials can be found at <http://www.niu.edu/facdev/blackboard/> Additionally, faculty may subscribe to a listserv that allows users to share their questions and expertise with other users and also receive information about latest updates to Blackboard. For more information on Blackboard informational materials, the listserv, or training programs, contact Carol Scheidenhelm at [carols@niu.edu](mailto:carols@niu.edu) or 753-2690, and for technical assistance on Blackboard login accounts and related information, contact the ITS help desk at 753-8100.

## Captioning Videos for Improved Accessibility

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Although issues of accessibility to instructional materials for all students is not entirely new, a growing institutional awareness has provided the impetus to seek out new solutions. Faculty are encouraged to adapt or modify teaching strategies to ensure all students have access to course materials. Accommodations to preferred learning styles are reflected in various modalities utilized by students including visual, auditory, and kinesthetic channels. Recommendations following the three principles of Universal Design for Instruction include the need to provide (1) multiple representations of content, (2) multiple options for express and control, and (3) multiple options for engagement.



Videostreaming content over a webpage is an additional strategy to communicate ideas to students who have the opportunity to view material anywhere and anytime internet access is available. However, the message can be compromised, if the audio portion fails to reach students. There may be instances where speakers/headphones are not available, or a student may be hearing-impaired. In such situations, there may be a need for an authoring environment for educators who desire to add captions, subtitles and audio descriptions to their course materials. Instructions on how to add captioning to instructional video materials is available at the Faculty Development

Cabrera will also offer a hands-on workshop titled, "Closed Captioning to Streaming Videos" on February 25, 2002 from 1 to 4 pm. Contact the Center for registration information for this workshop.

## Congratulations January – June 2002 Grant Recipients!

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### Faculty Development Grant Recipients:

Youakim Al Kalaani (Technology)  
Virginia Naples (Biological Sciences)  
Sue Ouellette (Communicative Disorders)

### Supportive Professional Staff Development Grant Recipients

Miguel Checa (Office of Sponsored Projects)  
Alan Farber (Career Planning and Placement Center)  
Piotr Klamut (Physics)  
Elizabeth Leake (Information Technology Services)

# Faculty Development Launches New Website

The Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center has launched a redesigned, more comprehensive website. The new website, designed according to web accessibility guidelines, gives users quick and direct access to various resources available from the Center and other campus units.



## Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center

Teaching ♦ Development ♦ Research ♦ Technology  
Home ♦ Northern Illinois University

### FDIDC Links

- Blackboard Resources
- Grants & Fellowships
- Instructional Guides
- Laboratory Facilities
- Multicultural Resources
- New Faculty Links
- Program Calendar
- Staff Information
- Teaching Videos



### News

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Effectiveness Institute](#)

[Technology Showcase](#)

The four bars entering the Center's redesigned pyramid logo represent the four major sections of the website: Teaching, Technology, Research, and Development.

These four sections have consistent layouts and have links to programs, resources, and services available from the Center and other campus units.

Additionally, the website has an Information webpage with the Center's mission, vision, staff information, etc., and a Resources webpage with links to information on resources such as the Center's

Instructional Guide for University Faculty, instructional videos, laboratory facilities, etc. One of the new features of the website is a comprehensive set of links on academic and community resources for new or prospective faculty.

The Center will continue to improve its website and add more resources and useful information during this semester. For more information about the website or the resources and programs offered by the Center, check the new website at <http://www.niu.edu/facdev>

## Grant Deadlines

**David Raymond Grant for the Use of Technology in Teaching** – This is an annual grant available for tenured or tenure-track faculty who are working on ways to use new technologies in their teaching. The \$2,500 grant is awarded to the faculty member with the best proposal for incorporating new technologies into his or her teaching. Deadline for application is Friday, March 8, 2002.

**Faculty Development Grants** - The Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center is offering grants of up to \$2,500 each annually to regular continuing faculty (tenured and tenure track). The purpose of the grants is to encourage and support faculty development activities that directly benefit applicants' departments, colleges and/or the university. Equal matching from the applicants' academic units or appropriate external sources is required. Deadline for application for activities between July – December 2002 is Friday, April 12, 2002.

**Supportive Professional Staff Development Grants** - The Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center and the Office of the President are offering grants up to \$1,000 each to Supportive Professional Staff (SPS) pursuing professional development activities that benefit the individuals as well as their academic units. Deadline for application for activities between July – December 2002 is Friday, April 19, 2002.

Additional details on eligibility criteria, proposal requirements, and guidelines for these grants can be found at: <http://www.niu.edu/facdev/development/grants.html>

**Spectrum** is published every fall and spring semester by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, Gilbert Hall 240, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Phone: (815) 753 0595, Email: [facdev@niu.edu](mailto:facdev@niu.edu), Fax: (815) 753-2595, website: <http://www.niu.edu/facdev>. For more information about upcoming events, faculty development programs, or featured articles, please contact: Connie Hanson, Program Coordinator, at (815) 753-3015 or Email: [chanson@niu.edu](mailto:chanson@niu.edu).