

Technology-Mediated Teaching and Learning @ LATTC

Technology-mediated teaching and learning is a growing trend in education and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College has become a pioneer in this new and exciting way to learn. Currently, the College has extensive technological capacity to offer courses, instruction, and support services utilizing multiple methods as follows.

Teleconferencing/Video Conferencing. Teleconferencing can be either via telephone (hosted by CCC Confer¹) or LATTC's video conferencing system (usually hosted by CENIC²).

Voice Over IP. In 2004, Video Over Internet Protocol (IP) replaced ISDN or telephone lines at LATTC for live transmission of simultaneous picture and sound to remote locations. This change dramatically improved the transmission quality by reducing the delay that was typically associated with ISDN or telephone line transmissions. At the same time, it also improved ease of configuration and portability since all that is needed is any internet capable connection. LATTC was the first college in the Los Angeles Community College District, and one of the first in California, to successfully convert from ISDN to Video Over IP. Voice Over IP equipment is available on a mobile cart and it can be taken to any office, classroom, or meeting room with a data port enabling individuals (faculty, students, others) to connect with anyone in the world that has compatible equipment. We have had successful transmissions as far away as Africa and as close as within California and the Los Angeles Community College District.

Podcasting. In 2005, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College was once again a pioneer in technology-mediated teaching and learning by becoming the first college in the Los Angeles Community College District, and one of the first in the state and nation, to podcast classes, workshops, supplemental instruction sessions, meetings, and special events. LATTC has 50 podcast appliances in use at this time and 25% of all courses are recording and making pod casts of lectures available to students. This is one of the highest percentages in the country; by comparison, the University of California system is at 2%. Instructors at LATTC using Podcasts report increases in student success; 86% of students are taking advantage of the podcasts; 85% of the full time faculty teaching science classes have been trained and are using or planning to use podcasting in their classes this fall; and 99% of the students of students using podcasts indicated the podcasts helped them learn and succeed.

Webcasting. Starting fall semester, the College will have the capability to conduct webcasts featuring a state-of-the art technology utilizing a unique interface that is customized to each course, event, or meeting. This technology will enable the College to expand the success it has achieved with podcasts to include live and captured video. This interface enables the delivery of key information to the student/user when they reach the web-based event via any internet connection. The interface provides the communication platform to engage students/viewers with the instructors/presenters through real-time conferencing features. These features include the ability to ask questions online and to have additional presentation materials (such as PowerPoint slides and different live polling options). These features allow for a fully interactive webcast experience. All user registration data is stored in a custom built database which allows the subsequent production of metrics showing who is viewing, from where they are viewing,

¹ CCC Confer is the California Community Colleges system's FREE Web and phone-based collaboration service that allows faculty, staff, and students to connect in real time, in groups of two or even hundreds—with just a PC, a telephone and an Internet connection. Meetings, trainings, classes and events can be anywhere without traveling. The technology allows for sharing of documents, presentations, audience polling, white board use for taking notes. There are public and private chat features and the ability to archive the entire meeting for later playback. CCC Confer has a full array of high-touch client assistance, including technical support, instructor-led and self-paced training, and hands-on support for any meeting or event.

² CENIC designs, implements, and operates CalREN, the California Research and Education Network, a high-bandwidth, high-capacity Internet network specially designed to meet the unique requirements of these communities, and to which the vast majority of the state's K-20 educational institutions are connected. In order to facilitate collaboration in education and research, CENIC also provides connectivity to non-California institutions and industry research organizations with which CENIC's Associate researchers and educators are engaged.

their e-mail address, company name, and how many people are viewing from that location.

Google Apps. Also starting fall semester, the College will be a Google Apps approved provider. Google Apps enables colleges to create an information technology portal for students, faculty, staff, and administrators free of charge. Google Apps is a compilation of accessible, sharable, and valuable applications that college constituents most commonly utilize such as email, calendaring, web page creation, documents, and spreadsheets. Included in the Appendix is further information about the technology-mediated instructional capabilities the College will have with Google Apps.

The College's Instructional Media Services department staff provide technical support for all distance and technology-mediated instruction.