



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Greetings Faculty!

September 2 2008

Welcome back – we wish you the very best in teaching this year and want to tell you about some significant improvements to our Distance Learning classrooms.

#1 Better in-class viewing for students. We've installed 50" plasma monitors in our three Turlock classrooms and in the two classrooms at the Tri-College Center in Merced. These replace our old television sets and offer greatly improved detail, brightness, and contrast. Stockton is slated to have the same monitors presently.

#2 New digital document cameras in the three DBH classrooms for better resolution when viewing text documents and diagrams. These cameras have a very user-friendly control design and can handle paper and photographs, 35mm slides, and transparencies with the capability of digitally storing your images for recall during the lecture. Made by WolfVision, these state of the art cameras will replace our old Elmo units.

#3 Digital transmission of courses to Stockton and Merced. Beginning this fall, we have switched over to video conferencing technology in all three of our DBH classrooms, Stockton, and Merced. Combined with a new, dedicated fiber connection between the Turlock and Stockton campuses, this will allow simultaneous two-way audio & video communication with the remote sites and display of computer screens and document cameras. Further upgrades are planned for later this semester.

#4 Digital archive and video streaming of DL courses. Last spring, we had a successful pilot of MediaSite technology which enables us to capture courses, digitally archive them, and serve them out as streaming video through your Blackboard course site. This advancement eliminates the need for students to bring tapes, CDs, and USB flash drives into the Distance Learning office for copies of lectures they've missed or need to review. Further, you'll be able easily review your own lectures any time. All courses are now automatically given Blackboard components and populated with students (instructors just need to activate them). Please contact Jerry Anderson for details on our new streaming video capability and Bob Koehler for Blackboard and multimedia support.

#5 Housekeeping. Finally, we've removed unused equipment from the front of the three classrooms to reduce visual clutter in the lecture area and improve student focus on you and your instructional materials. While the map racks have been moved and the projection screens are now gone, we still have the capability of displaying videos and slides, and we can easily scan maps and charts for digital transmission.

The three Turlock classrooms are all equipped with computers, USB Flash drive ports, document cameras, VHS/DVD/CD playback and 35mm slide projection. As always, you'll have a trained student operator to handle the technical aspects of the room and allow you to concentrate on delivering content

and manage the remote sites. Feel free to contact any of our staff if you have any questions or want to test out a new technology.

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Best regards,

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