Subject: DMACC Online Summer Information

Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 2:31 PM
From: DMACC Online Learning <onlinelearning@dmacc.edu>
To: *All DMACC Faculty, Campus Deans and Provosts

Good afternoon,

We have some good news and additional information we'd like to share as the start of the Summer '22 term gets going.

Please check our Faculty support page for useful information and don't forget about the *Online Instructional Resources* course available in Blackboard for help using Blackboard and other tools.

We continue to see our overall accessibility scores improve each semester. Continuing to work on your Ally accessibility score is beneficial to all users and helps DMACC continue improving our ADA compliance to align with our procedure.

Please remember, we have Kaltura as part of our Blackboard toolset. Kaltura does many things for users:
1. Provides users with a streaming version that matches the computer/bandwidth being used to access the video.
2. Will machine caption automatically to help ensure accessibility for all users (captions should be edited for additional accuracy).
3. Allows you to create quick videos on the fly while teaching your course.
4. Now includes inline quiz creation to check students' knowledge while watching your video.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We have updated our annual contract with Kaltura to control our costs, which includes an automatic removal of videos that haven't been viewed in over 4 years. Contact a designer if you have any questions about this and how it affects future courses.

Controlling file sizes inside of Blackboard is important. If you're adding/creating any videos (or audio) for your students, please consider Kaltura as the streaming provider instead of uploading the file directly into your Blackboard course. We also see very large PowerPoints, images, zip files, and proprietary software files (like Adobe), along with files that are duplicated in courses. Blackboard has instituted a course max file size that can be restored by the admins so any course larger than 2 GB can no longer be restored in Blackboard. Please pay attention to file sizes when uploading anything to Blackboard and when having students submit files.

A note on the future of Blackboard at DMACC: Nothing is imminent or promised with regard to our Blackboard license. We have an Online Advisory Council who are looking at options and helping with decisions related to keeping Blackboard or moving to another platform, but no decision has been made yet. Stay tuned as we hope to have more information coming later this summer.

As always, we're here to help. Please contact a designer with any questions about what you've just read or if you'd like to have them do a course review and provide you with thoughts and recommendations to improve what you already have.

Have a great summer,
DMACC Online