Subject: Blackboard Collaborate moving to Kaltura Classroom this Summer

Date: Friday, March 31, 2023 at 4:10 PM
From: DMACC Online Learning <onlinelearning@dmacc.edu>
To: *All DMACC Faculty, Campus Deans and Provosts

Attachments: KalturaClassroom_at-a-Glance.pdf, KalturaClassroom_Quick-Link.pdf

Good afternoon,

For the past several years we've been using Collaborate, a Blackboard product, as our virtual meeting platform. However, earlier this year, Blackboard announced that they have sold Collaborate to a new vendor called Class. As a result, our Blackboard license will no longer include Collaborate.

The Online Advisory Council (OAC) has reviewed several alternatives, including a product called Classroom, which is provided by our video partner, Kaltura. After reviewing Kaltura Classroom, the OAC determined that there are many benefits to move to this virtual meeting platform. Some of these benefits include: ease of use, similar features, quizzing, integration into the LMS, storage of meetings, and auto captioning of recordings. This tool is also browser based, so no additional software installation is required. As you can see from the attached guides, the system is similar to what you've used in the past, and we haven't found any features that Kaltura Classroom doesn't have!

Since Class now owns Collaborate, our migration to Kaltura Classroom needs to be accelerated. The cost to keep Collaborate (contract start of July 1) until the fall term starts is almost twice as much as Kaltura charges for one year.

We will be moving away from Collaborate to Kaltura Classroom starting in this summer term.

We are setting up virtual trainings that you can attend using this new tool beginning in April, but access to Classroom is available in both Blackboard and Canvas already, so feel free to try it out!

I hope this gives you plenty of time to prepare for the summer term. Don't hesitate to reach out an Instructional Designer or our Training Coordinator for help.

Kind Regards,
DMACC Online