



Connecticut State University System WebCT Vista Project

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What is Vista?

VISTA IS COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE, ALSO KNOWN AS INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN SOFTWARE. IT CONTAINS A SET OF ONLINE TOOLS THAT MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING. VISTA IS THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOFTWARE FROM THE COMPANY THAT MAKES WEBCT CAMPUS EDITION, THE PRODUCT CURRENTLY BEING USED SYSTEMWIDE.

Did you know...?

A rubric can help define what a high quality online course looks like, says Kathy Fernandes from CalState, Chico. Addressing learner support, instructional design and delivery, online organization, assessment of student learning, and faculty use of student feedback are all important components. Visit <http://www.csuchico.edu/celt/roi/> for examples.

READY TO ROLL!

SCSU AND WCSU PREPARE FOR SPRING PILOTS

Southern and Western have both selected faculty for their spring pilots. At this time, Southern's eight Vista pioneers include Ellen Frank from Business Management, Gregory Kowalczyk from Chemistry, James Kusack from Library Science, Patricia Rukowicz from School Health, David Petroski from Communication, Durga Prasad from Business Management, Carol Stewart from Communication and Bob Workman from Computer Science. Participants are attending one-on-one sessions in which Stan Walonoski and Bob Cuddihee are helping faculty become more familiar with Vista. Faculty will also have access to group workshops, a user group in the My SCSU portal and additional support from Vista-trained staff.

Western's nine participants include Shane Murphy from Psychology, Scott Benjamin from Social Sciences, Ed Hagan from English, Galina Bakhtiarova from World Languages and Literature, Josie Hamer from Mathematics, Michael Wilson from Education, John Cronin from Marketing, Richard Proctor from Accounting and Rick Bassett from MIS. Western's participants took part in one-on-one learning sessions with staff from university computing, including Marlene Davis, Becky Diot, and Tammy Hammershoy.



Central plans to have around 70 faculty members use Vista next spring. This number will include faculty who taught last fall as well as new folks. Media center staff, as well as others from the Vista migration team, have been conducting group workshops as well as on-on-one sessions throughout October, November and December.

For more about pilot activities, visit the Vista website at www.ctstateu.edu/Vista.

CREATIVE COURSES

FACULTY USE VISTA TOOLS IN NEW WAYS

While learning the basics of how to post lecture notes and discussion topics is useful, many faculty members want to know how to take things to the next level, pedagogically speaking. At Central's Vista Forum, faculty members talked about how to do just that – and we have captured some of their creativity below.



Scavenger Hunt – Students in Karen Riem's EDTE 316 class must go on a 'scavenger hunt' to learn both how to navigate Vista and discover basic course items. Karen says this task teaches her students how she organizes the class and provides more information than course handouts. In addition, students' piqued curiosity requires active thinking, making them more likely to retain what they learn. As a bonus, Karen gives students extra participation points for using Vista tools, such as posting their birthday on the calendar.

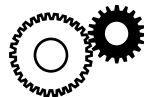


Interactive Glossary – Mike Davis places picture files and more in his biomolecular science class glossary to help students visualize what he's talking about. And, just in case the students forget what a learned word means, Mike makes the word appear as a hyperlink to the definition each time it appears anywhere in the course. (If you don't want to have the word linked to the glossary everywhere it appears, then you can choose to have it linked only the first time the word appears.)

Watch upcoming issues for more tips!

VISTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The CSU Vista Project welcomes two new members, Will Hochman from Southern and Anne Agee from the CSU System Office. Will was recently appointed to the committee by Southern President Cheryl Norton. As an Associate Professor & Technology Coordinator of English, Will says he likes to find innovative teaching ideas and thinks a lot about how computers affect writing. Will looks forward to serving on the committee and says he plans to “bring a strong critical consciousness to how we make cyberspace into CSU learning space.”



Anne is the new CIO of Systemwide IT. She comes to CSU from George Mason University in Virginia where she was responsible for coordinating the University’s technology integration initiatives, including program planning, faculty support and training, and student support and training. In particular, Anne worked with George Mason’s College of Arts and Sciences to develop the Technology Across the Curriculum program, winner of the EDUCAUSE award for Systemic Progress in Teaching and Learning. “I am excited to see how Vista will enhance CSU’s distance and web-enhanced courses,” says Anne, who also has a background in supporting distance learning. “I’m also confident that this project will produce a positive outcome for the System as a whole, as we’re already seeing quality results.” -- *Estela Lopez, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and co-chair, Vista Executive Committee*

CCSU PILOT ASSESSMENT



Central’s migration, policy and faculty teams have worked collaboratively to assess the success of its fall 2005 pilot. Faculty have been asked to share their experiences using Vista in the form of a survey. Questions were related to the Vista tools used and overall satisfaction with Vista. Students have also been solicited for input, in the form of an online survey in Vista. Questions addressed Vista’s ease of use and how Vista contributed to their learning. This survey was unrelated to departmental assessments, and was pre-tested with a focus group.

In an effort to help their counterparts system wide, a results summary will be shared with Vista team members and those conducting pilots at Southern and Western. Contact representatives on your campus, or Vista Project Manager Rick Murphy if you would like further information. -- *Sherry Pesino, Assistant Director CCSU Media Center and Migration Team Leader, CSU Vista Project*

Vista Project Executive Team Membership

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CIO for Systemwide IT, CSUSO

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