

Faculty FYI

October 21, 2019

Good afternoon!

[Please participate in a survey from the CETL Faculty Advisory Committee.](#)

Transparent Assignment Design

Consider making a small change to your teaching to help improve retention at Texas Wesleyan University – and most importantly – the success of your students. All that’s required is 1-2 hours of your time and a willingness to revise two assignments in your Spring 2020 courses.

[To learn more about TILT, sign up for the Stylus Author Webinar on October 28, 2019.](#) The guest speakers are Mary-Ann Winkelmes, Allison Boye & Suzanne Tapp. They will discuss their new book *Transparent Design in Higher Education Teaching and Leadership*. Going Full TILT: How Transparency in Teaching Transforms Student Engagement, Faculty Experience, and Institutions.

Why should you be interested in this initiative?

- The study was conducted at seven minority-serving institutions. The participating students have profiles to many TxWes students (e.g., first-gen college student, Hispanic, African-American).
- Those students who received more transparent assignments showed improvement in areas such as sense of belonging that are correlated with improved academic performance.
- All students who received more transparent instruction on their assignments had a stronger sense of belonging, more confidence about academics, and increased awareness of the skills they needed in the 21st century workplace. Previous research has shown that sense of belonging and academic confidence correlate with improved academic performance.
 - **Traditionally underserved students benefitted most from the intervention.**
- A parallel study found that **retention among second-semester freshmen was approximately 15% higher** in those who received transparent assignments than those who didn’t.
- You can participate in the study under an umbrella IRB. To participate, sign-up online and ask students to complete a survey at the beginning and end of the semester.

More information is available at tilthighered.com. An example of a more transparent syllabus and examples of additional revised assignments are available in the All Faculty Blackboard organization in the folder for the October 17, 2019, Faculty Assembly meeting.

You can also contact the CETL for information about training opportunities or to request feedback to an existing assignment.

Upcoming Workshops

If you are interested in a workshop but the timing doesn’t work for you, contact the office so we can schedule a 1-1 meeting. That’s why we are here! Visit <https://txwes.edu/cetl> for more information about workshops and to register. Or, email cetl@txwes.edu. This week’s workshops are highlighted in yellow.

Title	Date	Time	Description
YuJa Training, Part 2- Quizzes and Commenting	Wed., Oct. 30	10:00 a.m.	Learn to embed quizzes and commenting to videos in your course.
Deploy an Anonymous Mid-semester Survey (30 min)	Tues., Oct. 22	10:00 a.m.	Mid-semester surveys are an excellent tool for gathering student feedback for your course. Come learn how to deploy a survey in your Blackboard course.
Captioning for Everyone -	Tues., Oct. 23 Tues., Oct. 23	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. (virtual)	Learn how to provide closed captioning for videos you've recorded and why it's important. You'll learn how to enable and edit auto-generated captions.
SMART Notebook (Online Tools)	Tues., Oct. 22 Tues., Oct. 22	10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Would you like to promote student engagement fast and effectively? Come see what SMART has to offer in the line of online tools (no SMART Board required).
Better than Course Copy (30 min)	Tues., Oct. 22	12:15 p.m.	Ever lost an assignment, test, etc. after copying a course from one semester to the next? We'll show you a more effective and reliable way to transfer your Blackboard content.

By the way, [previous Faculty FYIs are available online.](#)

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