Teaching Learning Center

COOPERATIVE LEARNING IDEAS:

Ginnette Serrano held a roundtable discussion here in the TLC at the end of January to share her ideas on the cooperative learning. She participated in a course at Richland which taught creative ways to introduce cooperative learning into the classroom. She started using these techniques and was pleased with the results. Once the census date has passed, she divides her class in to groups of three. She emails the class to let them know the groups have been assigned and to explain that the groups are for the students to encourage each other to finish the class. They will receive 20 bonus points if no one in their group drops. They are to remind their group members of important deadlines and will receive 2 additional bonus points for emailing the group weekly. Lastly the students are to help their group members with assignments and email them first if they have questions concerning the assignment and respond to one another's emails. They will receive 2 bonus points for doing this through out the semester. You can monitor this by requesting the students copy you, the instructor, on each email.

You may wish to outline this fully in an email as well as in an announcement for them to refer and including an example email for them to follow. To manage students' emails, set up folders for each class in Groupwise and have the emails filter into the appropriate folder upon receipt. Then when the time comes it will be easier for you to tally the results and award bonus points as earned. Using this process helps students to communicate with each other, provide necessary encouragement, and gain a little bonus for their final grade. The idea is to also help with retention. If students know they are letting down their entire group by dropping they may be less likely to do so.

Example email used by Ginnette:

Subject: Deadline Approaching

Hello John and Mary,

I am Ginnette. Welcome to the class. I wanted you to be aware that we have a deadline coming up this Friday. You have to turn in your Discussion Board 1. Discussions close on the due date so you will not be able to get your 25 points for the discussion if you miss the deadline.

Please do not hesitate to email me if you need help or have questions about the class. Also, remember we get 20 points for finishing the class, so do not drop!!
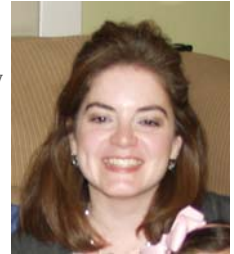
Ginnette

E-MAILING GROUP MEMBERS:

1. Using eCampus,
2. Click on the <Communication> button
3. Click on the "Send email" link
4. Click on " Select Users"
5. Select your group members and me, the instructor
6. Add a subject to the email. You do not need to put the class number or section, this is done automatically by the system.
7. Type the message and make sure to type your name at the bottom of the email.

WELCOM A NEW FACE TO THE TLC:

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ginnette Serrano, the new Faculty Advisor for the Teaching Learning Center. Ginnette has been teaching Computer Science and Computer Literacy full-time at Cedar Valley College for the past 9 years. Prior to teaching at CVC, Ginnette taught high school Pre-AP and AP Computer Science at the Science and Engineering Magnet High School in Oak Cliff and prior to that she was a software developer for Tandy Corp.. Ginnette has been teaching online for 8 of her 9 years at Cedar Valley and currently teaches exclusively online courses.

Ginette's passion is for her family and home. She and her husband, Alfonso have two children, Cristian,5, and Isabela, 3. She love to be with them and volunteers as much as possible at their schools. Ginnette loves scrapbooking, reading, and crafting in general.

Currently Ginnette is participating in the latest Vanguard course. She is excited to be part of the TLC, would love to hear from you, and is eager to help answer any questions you may have. Stop by the TLC and say "hi"!

Vanguard Online is "eye opening, thought provoking, inspiring, reflective, innovative...."

-Dr. Ron Williams, CVC

VANGUARD & VANGUARD²

Vanguard Online has been a hugely successful program created by Tim Xeriland, the Director of the Teaching Learning Center. Tim serves as the mentor/guide for best practices in online teaching. Participants complete the course feeling motivated, energized, and ready to breathe new life into their own courses. As a certificate holder, Dr. Ron Williams declares Vanguard online to be eye opening, thought provoking, inspiring, reflective, innovative....I have been around CVC for several years and I sincerely believe that this is one of the top five most stimulating, informative, and expansive experiences in which I have been involved offered by the college. As I have stated many times, the TLC is the hidden treasure at CVC. I look forward to participating in more and similar academic, intellectually stimulating adventures provided to us from the TLC."

Upon completion of Vanguard Online, participants will be able to take part in Vanguard², the second installment in the Vanguard series. Participants will meet in person and discuss methods to improve the online experience and use software available in the TLC to implement the ideas discussed in the sessions. Graduates will have the opportunity to present their work to the administration and demonstrate the impact it can have on students.

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MIDTERM CHECKLIST:

◈ Make sure students are on track and aware of impending deadlines.

◈ Send a personal email to touch base and encourage students to ask questions as needed.

◈ Encourage students to visit the Tutor Center if necessary.

◈ Encourage interaction between classmates.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

(March 16th-22nd)