

Faculty Resource Bulletin

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Faculty,

The Faculty Resource Bulletin is one of many steps we're taking to improve communication about local and statewide faculty professional development information and opportunities. Please visit <https://www.dctc.edu/online-dctc/faculty-resources> for more information as well as past Bulletins.

Highlights of this week's Bulletin include:

- Tech Tip: Manage Exemptions in Brightspace
- From Your Colleagues
- D2L Brightspace Training Schedule
- Formative and Summative Assessment
- Finding Your Place Podcast
- Ten Myths about Accessibility of Online Courses
- Accessing Higher Ground (AHG) Virtual Conference
- STAR Symposium Registration and Call for Proposals Open
- Event Calendar (including locally "hosted" events)

Tech Tip

[Manage Exemptions in Brightspace](#)

We've made a new tool available in our instance of D2L Brightspace that allows faculty to excuse students from activities and have it be visually noticeable to a student. [This document](#) explains how to use the Manage Exemptions feature to exempt a student(s) from having to complete activities within your courses.

You can exempt students from items within the following:

- Assignments
- Checklists
- Discussion Topics
- External Learning Tools
- Quizzes
- Self-Assessments
- Surveys
- Grade Items

Learning activities that have a Grade Item associated with them (such as Assignments, Discussion Topics, and Quizzes) will also automatically exempt the student from the associated Grade Item when they are exempted from the activity.

See many more Brightspace tutorials on our [D2L Resources page!](#)

From Your Colleagues

In a recent Equity Minded Teaching and Learning Community workshop and a broader discussion on how to best serve all students, Early Childhood and Youth Development faculty member Dawn Easley presented the steps necessary to retrieve DARS information:

1. Log into Faculty/staff portal.
2. Click on “e-Timesheets and Leave Requests”.
3. Click on “Home”.
4. Under Administrative Applications:
 - a. Click on “u-Achieve Self-Service Degree Audit Portal”.
 - b. Click on “Dakota County Technical College Self-Service Portal”.
 - c. Log in with StarID & Password.
 - d. Click on “Students”.
 - e. Search by Student ID or Name.
5. When the student is listed, click the play icon.
6. Under Request an Audit:
 - a. Select “Run Declared Program” OR “Select Different Program” (you can run different majors to "force the DARS") and see what would be remaining if they switch programs/awards.
 - b. After the audit is run, select the audit to be viewed by clicking on “View Audit”.

D2L Brightspace Training Schedule

Are you new to teaching online? Or have you been teaching online and could use a refresher? Please join us for these short, focused training sessions on specific Brightspace tools:

- November 6 at 3:00: Calendar Tool
- December 4 at 3:00: Groups

And join us for this slightly longer workshop before break:

- December 11 at 2:00: Course Design

All training sessions will take place in **2-141C**. We hope to see you there!

Formative and Summative Assessment

There are many ways we assess student progress, and some of the most helpful ways are often the least utilized. In addition to more traditional summative forms of assessment, such as exams and high-stakes research papers, you and your students may benefit from more frequent, low-stakes assignments – either in addition to, or in place of some of those more traditional methods.

See this month's [Minnesota State Educational Development Digest](#) for more on this topic.

Finding Your Place Podcast

Online

November 15, 10:00-11:00

In 2018, Robert Jersak, Century College, and Dave Engen, Minnesota State University, Mankato, received a Minnesota State Shark Tank Open Innovation grant to create a podcast series for mentoring and supporting first-year and first-generation college students. The podcast features six student producers sharing their insights and advice about college, and all episodes are available as an open educational resource.

This online session will...

- demonstrate key features of the podcast series (content and accessibility)
- identify the theoretical underpinnings of the podcast project, including Difference-Education, Social Capital, and Cultural Wealth
- offer specific assignments/activities educators can use with student listeners
- explore additional ways to use the podcast series on your campus

[RSVP here!](#)

Ten Myths about Accessibility of Online Courses

Main Campus 2-141C
November 19, 2:00-3:00

Improving the accessibility of online learning is a passion that runs deep at D2L. That's also true for the many organizations that use Brightspace to provide learning opportunities to students and employees. There is a great deal of good advice out there related to improving the web accessibility of online courses, but there are many misconceptions too. We'll examine some of these myths and provide some different perspectives for you to consider.

Join your fellow faculty members and Teaching and Learning support staff in 2-141C and stay for a post-webinar discussion on accessibility at DCTC!

Accessing Higher Ground (AHG) Virtual Conference

Online
November 20-22

You are invited to attend the 2019 Accessing Higher Ground (AHG) Virtual Conference at one of ten Minnesota State campus hosting sites. AHG is a nationally recognized conference on Accessible Media, Universal Design and Assistive Technology.

Minnesota State faculty and staff are invited to attend (at no charge) any or all of the live-streamed sessions taking place on November 20, 21, and 22. The site license does not include the pre-conference sessions or the Thursday evening keynote session. To participate you need to attend one of the hosting locations listed below and view in-person at that location. Individual logins are not provided as part of this viewing arrangement.

[Registration and more information](#) available online.

STAR Symposium Registration and Call for Proposals Open

Online
February 28, 2020
8:30-4:00

The STAR Symposium celebrates excellence in teaching and learning by providing an avenue for individuals to share best practices, ideas and resources with colleagues. This **FREE**, virtual one-day conference will consist of presentations that focus on post-secondary pedagogical approaches including delivery via face-to-face, blended, flipped, and online classrooms.

Presentation tracks include:

- Teaching and learning
- Faculty Development and support
- Course design and delivery
- Grading, assessment, and feedback
- Student engagement
- Technology integration
- Other innovations...

[Call for proposals](#) and [registration](#) are now open!

Event Calendar

The following are local and system-wide events. We will host the following online opportunities/webinars in **2-141C** if you'd like to participate with your faculty colleagues and have a discussion afterwards:

- [Rubrics to Save Time Evaluating Student Work](#) November 12
- [Accessibility Webinar – Evaluating and Repairing Word and PowerPoint Files – Part 1](#) November 13
- [Group Discussions to Promote Student Engagement](#) November 14
- [What's New in D2L Brightspace 20.19.11?](#) November 18
- [Classroom Assessment Techniques](#) November 19
- [Humanizing Your Course Design](#) November 19

Unable to participate in the above webinars on campus? We're sad you can't join us, but you can also click on the above links to RSVP and participate on your own. Recordings for most webinars can be accessed from the [Minnesota State D2L Support SharePoint site](#). Use your StarID@minnstate.edu credentials to login.

November

Monday 11	Tuesday 12	Wednesday 13	Thursday 14	Friday 15
	12:00-12:50 Rubrics to Save Time Evaluating Student Work	3:00-4:15 Accessibility Webinar – Evaluating and Repairing Word and PowerPoint Files – Part 1	2:00-2:50 Group Discussions to Promote Student Engagement	10:00-11:00 Finding Your Place Podcast
Monday 18	Tuesday 19	Wednesday 20	Thursday 21	Friday 22
Improving the Student-to-Content Interaction using D2L Brightspace Tools (3 week start date) 12:00-12:50 What’s New in D2L Brightspace 20.19.11?	11:00-11:50 Classroom Assessment Techniques 1:00-1:50 Humanizing Your Course Design	Accessing Higher Ground Virtual Conference	Accessing Higher Ground Virtual Conference	Accessing Higher Ground Virtual Conference 9:00-10:00 Out from the Shadows Series: Trauma

Descriptions for events are presented here as they appear on organizations’ websites. Please contact me if you have any questions about these opportunities, or if you have information about an opportunity you’d like to share with your faculty colleagues. Search more Minnesota State system events here: www.asanewsletter.org/events.

All best,
Martin

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