

## **Transforming Your Teaching with Blackboard Learn: Fully Online Version A Cohort-Based Professional Development Experience with Technology Support**

### **The Blackboard Institute**

**Learn how to build, implement, teach and transfer** a Blackboard delivered course from scratch, ready for use in any delivery format: F2F, hybrid and fully online classes.

**Technology Support (TS) Services** at UTEP seeks faculty (tenured, tenure-track, lecturer, adjunct and graduate students) to participate in a cohort-based, professional development experience to transform teaching and learning utilizing the Blackboard Learn (Bb) platform.

**This version of the Blackboard Institute is conducted fully online—utilizing synchronous (Bb Collaborate Ultra) and asynchronous (a cohort Bb shell and participant practice shell).**

*Faculty members agree to:*

- Participate in a 1-week professional development *Blackboard Learn institute* to learn innovative course design, development and management using Blackboard Learn;
- Integrate/implement established and emerging Blackboard tools into course design, development and management into subsequent semester;
- Serve as a liaison/representative in a community of practice;
- Attend (when possible) follow up “Lunch and Learn” presentation with other cohorts;
- Help collect and share data through formative and summative assessments, focus groups, and interviews to measure effectiveness of professional development;
- **(Optional)** Submit a conference proposal and/or work toward publication on teaching and learning with technology, possibly in collaboration with Technology Support Services.

### **Become an Expert with Bb!**

Participation in a 1-week (5 days) *Bb Learn Institute* will be required to prepare for semester implementation. For this fully online version, faculty should have consistent internet access, a desktop/laptop/and-or mobile device to participate online, and camera/microphone/speaker capabilities on their device(s).

*Institute Week: May 27-June 2, 2020; 9am-11am daily through Bb Collaborate; No weekends!*

*Location: Fully Online via Blackboard Collaborate (web-conferencing) and Bb Institute Cohort Course Shell (for asynchronous materials).*

### *Faculty Incentives*

- **Learn how to build, implement, teach and transfer** a Blackboard delivered course from scratch, ready for use in any delivery format: F2F, hybrid and fully online classes.
- A Blackboard Learn **course development shell**;
- **Professional development in pedagogy, design and researched best practices** for integrative and applied teaching and learning in an online environment;
- **Customization of Blackboard shell and student-engagement artifacts**, including (but not limited to) multimedia, Bb icons, cinemagraphs, and digital interactions by Creative Studios;
- **Usability and design mentoring** for course;
- **Guest presentations** from experienced hybrid and online faculty and staff;
- **Continued/consistent support and assessment** of the course to update, refine, and improve after class launches;
- **Web resources**;
- **Membership in a community of practice** with other faculty from across campus (over 200 currently);
- **Conference and publication opportunities**;
- **A Certificate of Completion and Letter of Support** for use in tenure, award, and annual report packets.
- **Additional and continued support** for your research, grants, teaching, and other projects with graphic design, multimedia, web development expertise from Creative Studios.

### *Learning Outcomes*

As a result of the Bb Institute, faculty will be able to (including, but not limited to):

1. **Create and maximize** the use of Bb and its tools for teaching and learning.
2. **Align programmatic learning outcomes** with course content, assignments, and assessments (and be able to measure student achievement).
3. **Integrate and utilize** custom graphics, multimedia, digital interactions, cinemagraphs for student engagement.
4. **Become more self-sufficient** in course management using Bb.
5. **Implement innovative course design** in conjunction with online teaching and learning.
6. **Use Bb as a data resource** for improved teaching, research, and conference/publication opportunities.

### *Registration Process*

Please register on **Campus Edge** as space is limited to **40 participants** for the cohort. Link to Blackboard Collaborate sessions will be provided after registration.

### *Facilitator(s)*

**Steven T. Varela** is an Associate Director and faculty member at the University of Texas at El Paso. In

his role with Technology Support Services, Varela oversees the Creative Studios team and specializes in curriculum and instructional design for fully online, blended and tech- enhanced courses, and teaching with technology. He is an expert using multimedia and multimodal approaches to teaching and learning. As a faculty member, Varela's research and teaching interests include the areas of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's), *Gamification* and Game-Informed Learning, Critical Pedagogy and Social Justice. Varela is a member of UTEP's Academy of Distinguished Educators and was an inaugural recipient of the UT Regents Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**Creative Studios** (within TS) collaborates with academic units to create and/or facilitate integrated, applied, and transformative teaching and learning experiences with technology. Through evidence-based pedagogical strategies, digital and multimedia course enhancement, established and emerging technology integration, and data driven assessment and analytics, Creative Studios advances the design and delivery of creative and engaging learning experiences (in all formats). We collaborate with faculty, staff and administrators to efficiently, effectively impart content into their classes, and communicate ideas with high engagement in a digitally connected world.