THE SAVVY SCHOLAR

GREAT TEACHING | STRONG SUPPORT

"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn...and change."

- Carl Rogers

Volume 4, Issue 2

Save the Date

ACES 2024

1/10/2024
Amarillo College
Washington
Campus
8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Ultra Upskill

10/27/2023
Amarillo College
Washington
Campus
Ware 205V
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Zoom Link

As we embrace the autumn season here at Amarillo College, we are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our faculty newsletter. In this issue, we delve into a diverse range of topics aimed at enhacning your teaching

experience and supporting our shared commitment to student success and retention.
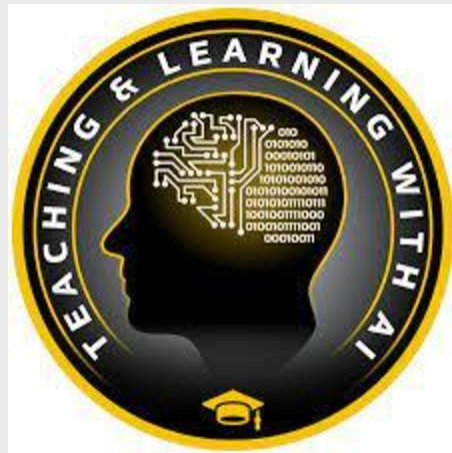
In this issue:

- Blackboard Updates
- AI Conference Report
- Blackboard Original Class Purge
- Accessing Faculty Transcripts
- Student Success and Retention

October Blackboard Releases

Blackboard is constantly improving their LMS for both instructors and students through monthly releases, which will be featured in the CTL newsletter.

- AI Generator (Learning Modules, Test Questions & Rubrics)
- Question Bank Generation from Ultra Documents
- Images from Unspalsh (Learning Modules & Course Banner)
- Batch Edit support for recursive actions
- Turn off/on class Collaborate per course

Teaching and Learning with AI

Several faculty and staff members from AC recently attended the inaugural "Teaching and Learning with AI" conference at the University of Central Florida. The attendees included Dr. Adrine Carter, Dr. Edie Carter, Courtney Millison, Dean David Hall, Michelle Lamons, Christopher George, Cathy Frazer, Timothy Vo, and myself. The primary objective of this conference was to

highlight effective ways of integrating AI into the classroom.

The attendees at this conference had varying levels of experience with AI, including many who were newcomers to AI applications, such as ChatGPT. Numerous presentations focused on exploring highly acclaimed AI applications like Google's Bard, Claude, and Heypi. It was an enlightening experience to witness the capabilities of these applications.

The core focus of the conference sessions shifted away from simply showcasing what AI apps can produce and instead emphasized the process of utilizing AI effectively. We learned how to construct prompts that maximize the utility of search results. Furthermore, there were sessions dedicated to instructing students on using AI as an editing tool for their original work, as well as leveraging it as a resource for debates and mock interviews.

The potential of AI to enhance education is both substantial and exhilarating. It represents a technological frontier where we are all early explorers rather than experts. There is much more on the horizon, and we have only just begun to glimpse the potential benefits of incorporating AI into education. I encourage you to explore various AI applications because there are even more exciting developments to come.
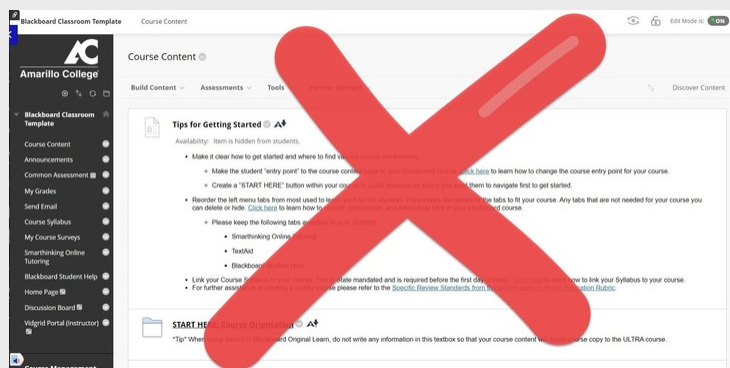
AI Application Resource Links:

[ChatGPT](#)

[Bard](#)

[Claude](#)

[HeyPi](#)

Purging All Blackboard Orginal Courses

Starting October 17th all Blackboard Original courses will be purged from the system.

Please make sure that all of your course content has been migrated over to Ultra. If you need to request an Ultra Dev Shell to store your content in, get those shells requested here.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to ctlhelp@actx.edu.

Accessing Transcript for Performance Evaluation

Need your transcript? Here you can find instructions with visuals on how to access your Faculty transcript within the AC Connect Portal.

If you need further assistance, contact Victor Favela.

Student Success and Retention

Student Success toward improving retention to completion is a high priority, and we are all a part of this undertaking. Our students need to know and understand their educational purpose and how it is important to obtaining their goals, which directly effectives their desire to complete.

One of our biggest lifts is utilizing the Watermark Student Engagement Portal (SEP), which you can find on the AC Connect apps section.

Key notes about the SEP:

- Automated alerts are attendance and the overall course grade threshold when it is below 75%. If attendance or grade related, check student's existing alerts first.
- Facutly/instructors will use the system to add or put comments, specific information, on a student's automated alert.
- You do not need to create a new alert for a student who has one of these automated alerts if these alerts address the main issue.
- Faculty/instructors can and should create any new alert that is not triggered by the system. An example of this is Staff Initiated Alert, which might be a student attending most all classess but still not turning in assignments or turning in half of the required assignments.
- You are the first source or point for outreach for the students in your courses. You need to provide communications to your students regarding their attendance, assignments, overall grade, and expectations in order to successfully complete your course.
- Success coaches are a secondary source for automated alerts, and they have priority caseload of students for outreach within community.
- You will need to create a task for mandatory tutoring for students who need to complete tutoring in your area, based on your success indicators in courses.

Teaching for Transformation 5

BB Ultra Troubleshoot at East Campus

Teaching for Transformation 5

CTL Mission Statement:
The Center for Teaching and Learning promotes transformative, evidence-based, and engaging professional learning for the enrichment of faculty and administrators to ensure the academic success of all students at Amarillo College.