Virtual Office Hours Are Here

If you’ve ever wished you could offer office hours in your pajamas, then your day has come! CCCConfer offers faculty and students access to free Virtual Office Hours. This is just one of several services offered by CCCConfer.

CCC Confer gives you the basic tools to connect to your community—juggling multiple meetings and events weekly or even daily. CCC Confer is the ONLY collaboration solution in the CCC system that allows you to meet with your colleagues at a distance without worrying about a travel budget. CCC Confer can accommodate a multitude of uses, including training opportunities, grant collaboration, meetings at a distance, or anything else necessary to support the business of education outside the classroom.

CCC Confer offers a reliable and affordable (it’s free to CCC staff, faculty and administrators) method to share software applications, PowerPoint presentations or anything running on your desktop with others using online meetings or events. In using the CCC Confer tools, your colleagues and students can clearly see what you display on your desktop. Also, you can pass control to another person during a meeting so you can see student’s work in progress on their own desktop.

How else can you use CCCConfer?

- Staff training
- Grant collaboration with others at a distance
- Committee discussion
- District staff meetings

Note: until the bargaining unit decides to allow virtual office hours, you can only augment your contracted 5 hours with virtual office hours, you cannot replace them.

Q & A On the CETC Technology Ambassador Project

What is the CETC? The California Educational Technology Collaborative was formed in December 2003 as a response to tight fiscal times. Sponsored by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, this program brought together all of the CCC systemwide technology projects into a single group. It allowed individual projects to remain autonomous while giving the new group a single-project focus.

What is a CETC Ambassador? He or she is an influential and knowledgeable advocate and primary on-campus resource who promotes system-wide CETC services at California Community College campuses.

What are the goals of the Ambassador project?
The goals of the project are to implement a system-wide grassroots outreach program that:

For more information go to: www.cccconfer.org
CETC Ambassador, Continued From Page 1

- Promotes and ultimately increases use of CETC Services among administrators, faculty and staff.
- Saves each campus money, time and resources.
- Provides an effective two-way communications mechanism between the campuses and the Collaborative so the CETC can continually improve their services.

What are the CETC Ambassador’s Responsibilities
- Act as the on-campus primary point of contact for faculty and staff.
- Disseminate information.
- Schedule/Conduct presentations and demonstrations.
- Facilitate training referrals.
- Refer end-users to support services.
- Be a two-way communications conduit between the campus and the CETC.

Who is the Ambassador at SCC?
Cari Cannon is the ambassador for the 2005-06 academic year.

Technology Committee Surveys Faculty and Staff

Last spring the technology committee surveyed faculty and staff at SCC; there were 86 respondents. Some of the findings were as follows:

- 42% access the Intranet at least once per week.
- 73% have accessed the Intranet to find information on human resources and regulations.
- 76% access district email remotely.
- Less than half were aware of video conferencing capabilities at SCC.
- Less than half were aware of ADA accessibility standards.
- General comments indicated that routine training should be offered and state of the art technology should be available to the college (e.g., Wi-Fi).
- 76% of respondents indicated a likelihood of attending an organized Technology Day with experts, demos and training.

Don’t Make Me Think: A Web Usability Book Review

The essence of Krug’s book on web usability entitled Don’t Make Me Think is that web navigators will not use your department or personal website unless you make it user friendly. What constitutes a user friendly website according to Krug? A good website:

- Allows users to scan quickly for relevant information—if a site is too difficult to navigate, users will get frustrated and quickly leave your site.
- Is designed like a billboard and not a textbook—people do not read web pages, they glance at them. Therefore, design your sites with this reality in mind.
- Omits needless words—noise is distracting so keep graphics, backgrounds, and other less important information to a minimum.
- Uses street signs and breadcrumbs—people will not use your website if they cannot find their way around it. If a user is on a page and can’t figure out how to get “home” you’ve got a poorly designed site.
- 76% access district email remotely.
- Less than half were aware of video conferencing capabilities at SCC.
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- General comments indicated that routine training should be offered and state of the art technology should be available to the college (e.g., Wi-Fi).
- 76% of respondents indicated a likelihood of attending an organized Technology Day with experts, demos and training.
Interactive whiteboards allow teachers to share information on their PC with students in the classroom. By connecting any Windows-based PC & data projector, an interactive whiteboard provides instructors with a powerful information and presentation tool, enabling them to share information with their audience quickly and easily and keep the audience’s attention.

Several members of the technology committee reviewed whiteboards from different vendors and recommended the ActivBoard by Promethean. We were able to purchase one board last spring. As we “find” money to purchase additional boards, we will look to department DDPs to determine who gets a board. Small departments are encouraged to team up with other departments to request a whiteboard to share. The ActivBoard is bulky and is best installed in a single classroom. Although it can be purchased with wheels, it could only be easily moved infrequently and for very short distances.

Math Department First to Receive Interactive Whiteboard

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CCC Technology Center

The California Community Colleges Technology Center helps to facilitate and coordinate the work of the CCC systemwide technology projects by disbursing funds, managing contracts, developing external funding resources, providing listserv and Web site hosting services and publicizing the progress of the projects through a newsletter. It also supports the statewide digital network, CENIC, which serves all 109 CCC campuses, and offers certain services to faculty, staff and administrators of the CCC system.

The CCC Technology Center is housed at Butte College and funded by a grant from the CCC Chancellor’s Office. The grant began in 1996 as the 4CNet Backbone Upgrade Project with a primary focus on supporting the statewide digital network, 4CNet, now known as CENIC. In 2002, the grant was renewed with added responsibilities and renamed the CCC Technology Center.

The CCC Technology Center has four service areas available to CCC faculty, staff, and administrators. Offered ser-
The Technology Committee promotes the use of technology to increase efficiency of college operations and to support teaching and enhance learning.

CCC Technology Center, continued

Services include the following:

- Technology grants research and support
- Listserv hosting
- Web site hosting
- Systemwide technology newsletter – TechEDge

It is important to note that the CCC Technology Center does not have a single college focus; rather it supports the efforts of the CCC Chancellor’s Office in promoting regional and systemwide technology. Therefore, the services offered are for regional and systemwide organizations only. The organizations must impact several colleges, a region, the entire system, or be intersegmental to utilize the CCC Technology Center’s services.

Detailed information about the services offered by the CCC Technology Center, including who to contact, are available at www.cccnext.net.

Look for the next issue of this newsletter in November! If you’d like to submit an idea for an article, please contact Cari Cannon (714) 628-4833 or cannon_cari@sccollege.edu.