Moodle 2.6.3 is Here

Chicago State University recently upgraded to the latest stable version of Moodle (2.6.3).

This version offers some exciting new features while preserving the overall user interface that faculty and students have grown accustomed to. Unlike the substantial upgrade to version 2.4 in fall 2013, this change is more incremental, and will be noticed in subtler ways.

If you would like to read more about the new features that have been added to Moodle with version 2.6.3, you can read the official release notes or watch some introductory videos on the official Moodle HQ page on YouTube (scroll down to “Release Highlights”).

If you have feedback you’d like to share regarding Moodle, please feel free to call the CTRE at 773-995-2960 or email elearning@csu.edu.

New Faculty Orientation

This fall, the CTRE will once again be hosting New Faculty Orientation, with two separate sessions, one for full-time and tenure-track faculty, and one for adjuncts.

New Faculty Orientation will take place on Saturday, August 16 for adjuncts, and Monday-Tuesday, August 18-19 for full-time and tenure-track faculty.

In order to help ensure that all new faculty are invited to New Faculty Orientation, please let the CTRE know of any new hires in your program/department by filling out this brief form.

All CSU faculty, staff, and administrators are encouraged to come meet our new faculty any day of orientation during lunch (12:00-1:00 / LIB 301).

Please send questions to James Kowalski at jkowalsk@csu.edu or x2498.
Looking Forward

CTRE Virtual Roundtable

The CTRE’s newest faculty development initiative, CTRE Virtual Roundtable, is offered as a convenient, user-friendly means of connecting with colleagues across campus to discuss issues and topics related to teaching.

Upcoming roundtables include:

“Revising Your Syllabus”
June 16, 2014
10:30-11:30

“How Do I Make My Face-to-Face Course ‘Web-Enhanced’?”
June 23, 2014
10:30-11:30

“How Assessing Students with E-Portfolios”
June 30, 2014
10:30-11:30

Each virtual roundtable will take place via Blackboard Collaborate. Links for each session can be found in the Instructors Resource Course in Moodle.
To register, contact James Kowalski at jkowalski@csu.edu or 773-995-2498.

CTRE Faculty Symposium Series

As part of its 2014-2015 programming theme, the CTRE is pleased to announce:

CTRE Faculty Symposium Series

This series is an opportunity for faculty from across campus to share their scholarly work to an audience of their university peers and colleagues. All disciplines, topics and formats are welcome.

Symposia will take place throughout the academic year, starting in the summer of 2014.

If you are interested in being a presenter, please fill out this brief information form. You will be contacted shortly thereafter.

If you have questions about the CTRE Faculty Symposium Series, please contact James Kowalski at jkowalski@csu.edu or 773-995-2498.

OCT Begins 6/30

The next section of Online Certification Training (OCT) will begin on June 30.

OCT is an eight-week online course designed to help prepare faculty to teach in an online setting. The following units are covered:

- What is Online Teaching?
- Best Practices
- Copyright and Fair Use
- ADA Web Accessibility
- Instructional Design Basics
- Building Course Content

Those who enroll in OCT can expect to spend approximately 3-5 hours per week with readings and assignments, which will include quizzes, discussion forums, and projects. All work must be completed in order to pass OCT.

For the final project for OCT, participants will be required to complete two full modules of content for an online course.

Rochelle Johnson will facilitate the section starting June 30. If you have any questions, call 773-995-2960.

Click here if you would like to register for the June 30 section of OCT.