

Upcoming Events

Art of Teaching 3:
Starting Out Right 7/28
10:30-11:30
Online via [IRTC](#)

“How Can I Use Fre-
quent Student Feed-
back to Improve My
Online Courses?” 7/29
10:30-11:30
LIB 318

Online Certification
Training (OCT) 8/18
8 Weeks
Online
Begins

[Click here to register for an event.](#)

{ APPEALING APPS & SITES }

Site: [Midwestern Higher Educa-
tion Compact \(MHEC\)](#)

Cost: FREE!



The MHEC website offers a wealth of information and resources for Midwestern colleges and universities.

SARA Becomes Law

Below is an important message from the CTRE Director regarding the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA):

On Friday, July 25, 2014, Governor Quinn signed into state law the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, or SARA. This is a big step forward for Illinois and for distance learning, and is one that the CTRE has been preparing for in order to ensure CSU's full readiness and participation.

With SARA in effect, this means:

- SARA is state law in Illinois.
- Illinois can join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which enables a streamlined enrollment process for online courses for students across state lines.
- CSU will be applying for MHEC membership through the Illinois Board of Higher Education, which will be setting up related



policies, procedures, and fee structures.

- CSU will need to have all of its procedures in place to be an effective player in online learning. SARA provides great possibility for the growth of CSU's online course offerings, but the same is also true for all other institutions participating in MHEC. Competition among institutions for offering the best online programs will intensify, so it is important that we continue to support strong growth for our online presence.

With that in mind, the CTRE is taking the lead to ensure that all online course technology and support is ready for what is to come. Specifically, the CTRE has in place:

- Moodle version 2.6.3 (the most current stable version of Moodle offered by our hosting company)
- Collaborate 12 (synchronous and asynchronous secure online video

(Continued on back)



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:

"Art of Teaching 3: Starting Out Right"

July 28, 2014

10:30-11:30

"Art of Teaching 4: The Teacher's Persona"

August 4, 2014

10:30-11:30

"Art of Teaching 5: Planning the Work"

August 11, 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 jkowalsk@csu.edu or 773-995-2498.

CTRE Faculty Symposium Series

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

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

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.



SARA

(Continued from front)

communication)

- Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor (online proctoring software)
- Links to CSU Library website and Learning Assistance Center will be added to each online course shell (additional links, videos, tutorials, etc., will be added upon the request of Library, LAC, or faculty)
- Online Certification Training (next offered August 18, 2014)

Lastly, if you would like to know more about SARA and its implications for distance learning, I would encourage you to review the following:

- [Governor Quinn Signs Legislation to Ensure Quality Distance Learning and Online Education Programs](#)
- [Midwestern Higher Education Compact \(MHEC\) website](#)

Thank you for your support. I look forward to working with all of you to continue offering quality online programs at CSU.

