Canvas Update for all faculty: FTF, hybrid & DE

The Academic Senate has affirmed, and President Smith has approved, the Canvas Advisory Group's recommendations to implement Canvas as a full replacement of MyCR/Sakai beginning fall 2015. Today the Board of Trustees approved a five-year contract for Canvas hosting and support.

Faculty will have the option to convert to Canvas beginning spring 2015 or they can choose to wait until fall. Interestingly, as of Monday, Nov. 3, instructors in over 58% of the online DE sections for spring 2015 have chosen to use Canvas.

Because every faculty member has the choice of using either MyCR or Canvas for spring 2015, __both__ will be created for you — you merely need to decide which one you'll use. Shells in both LMS's will be created for your class(es) on Friday, Nov. 7; you can log into your class shell(s) thereafter.

TRAININGS: The Distance Education department will offer formal face-to-face trainings beginning the week of Monday, Nov. 10 and thereafter throughout the rest of the semester. There is also a series of tutorial videos on the web which you can watch at any time of convenience to you.

The current training schedule and video tutorials are available at this URL (login not required):
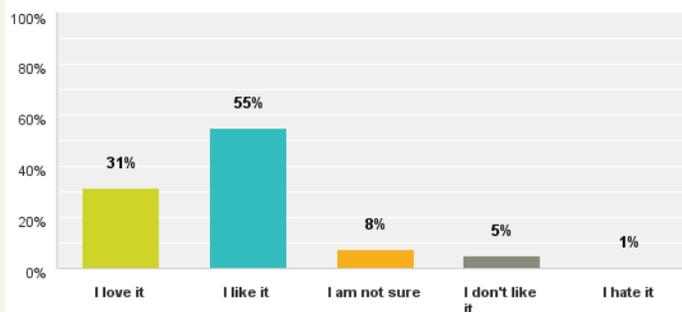https://redwoods.instructure.com/courses/739

MIGRATION ASSISTANCE: CR's Instructional Technologist, Mr. Reno Giovannetti, continues to be available to you for assistance with Canvas. He can provide both group and one-on-one assistance in migrating your MyCR/Sakai materials to Canvas, and help in configuring and learning Canvas.

He's available MWF 8am-4pm & TuTh 12:30-3pm. He provides assistance by phone or email (see his contact information below-right) as well as in person on the Eureka campus in LRC room 107.

Reasons for adopting Canvas for YOUR class in spring 2015? Consider our students… Here's how they responded to a survey about Canvas…

From survey of students in Canvas-delivered sections this fall:
http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/distance/faculty/documents/B-Canvassurveysummary-studentsinpilot-Sep23-Oct22014.pdf

New Opportunity: Interactive Video Classes

In the previous newsletter I briefly mentioned two Cisco technologies that are about to be deployed at CR: WebEx and TelePresence (*more on WebEx in a future newsletter*). **TelePresence** is hardware to enable video conferencing, and is capable of providing a venue for interactive, real-time classes with both local and remote cohorts. Here are some examples of how this can benefit our students:

- Classes can be offered at a remote site where no instructor is otherwise available;

- Classes can be offered at a location not otherwise having enough students to fill a class but are incorporated into another class elsewhere (via TelePresence) to make a full class.

The technology can link students amongst Eureka, Del Norte and Klamath-Trinity locations. Talks are underway with administration and faculty leadership at Del Norte, and the Instructional Council and Deans are exploring how best to proceed with this exciting new opportunity.

Please contact Mark Renner if you would like to participate.