



March 2010

TLC in 2010:

Illuminate (<http://illuminate.com/>)

Illuminate is a feature-rich, online web-conferencing system that enables teaching, learning and collaboration. We are currently preparing to launch a series of pilots in April and plan to offer access to the entire institution by the fall of 2010. It is anticipated that Illuminate will be used for meetings, faculty development, workplace training, collaboration, mentoring, tutoring, marketing and as a virtual classroom. An extensive evaluation of the product and its adoption will take place throughout the pilot ending in 2011.

Reading Circles

“The Skillful Teacher” Reading Circle is a collaborative arrangement with the VIU Faculty Association and TLC to provide support for faculty to examine their teaching practices, as a way for scholarly reflection. The circle is open to all members of VIUFA and BCGEU employees with the emphasis of exploration of the major demands, dilemmas, and challenges of teaching and analyzing them in informative and helpful ways. The original intent of the reading circle was to combine technology with pedagogy through the use of Illuminate. However, due to time constraints and the ability to support the author, Stephen Brookfield, VIU did not have the resources available to offer that level of support. The other intent of the circle is to build connection for faculty in regional campuses as a way to build sense of community. So far we have registered participants from two of the four campuses.

Workshops

We have continued to offer a variety of successful workshops to our VIU employees, in addition to free student workshops. These workshops are in keeping with our TLC goal of enhancing educational and workplace technologies. Therefore, these workshops provide professional development opportunities and enable technology users to bridge the gap between technology and its context. Workshops conducted over the past 6 months include Prezi, OneNote, Archiving in Outlook, Second Life, Skype, and PowerPoint/ Word 2007.

First Year Experiences

The First Year Experiences Webinar series looked at the development and implementation of support for first year students as a way to address retention issues. This three-part series examined the necessity of having a coordinated effort for FYE offerings, the effectiveness of different approaches and the infrastructure that are required for sustainability. The webinar re-ignited the FYE Ad Hoc committee at VIU and we have received requests for this series to be offered at our regional campuses. The Webinar also highlighted the need for additional support for instructors working with first year students. VIU at present does not have a FYE course so many of the responsibilities currently fall onto the year-one instructors to integrate learning skills into the curriculum.

May Days

During previous years May Days, the TLC hosted more than 25 professional development events in 2008 and 23 events 2009 with over 700 registrations. The TLC team is organizing May Days for the consortium of all VIU professional development providers. We are confident of a successful month this year, as our registrant list is already 26% full.