It’s been a busy semester at CISTL!

Perhaps you know and perhaps you don’t-- that CISTL now has a strong presence on the IUN home page! If you go to iun.edu you will see a tab called “Online Education”. There are many links to explore for students, faculty, and visitors. This has been a labor of love for all members of CISTL who have contributed to the launch of this new site. Please visit regularly as we update it as often as we can and are trying to create a blog on the home page where people can interact and comment! If you have suggestions for this website, please pass them along to a member of CISTL.

Welcome to Dr. Angela Solic, CISTL’s new Instructional Design Specialist. She started in January and is a faculty go-to person for instructional design and online teaching.

What’s in this debut issue....

- New website launch
- Online initiatives
- Assessment program for online courses
- Graduates of Online Teaching I
- Call for proposals for Online Course Development grants
- Thinking ahead...
In March of this year, 12 faculty members graduated from Online Teaching I, which is a four-week online course aimed at giving faculty members the unique experience of an online student while teaching them fundamentals of quality online course design and delivery.

Online learning quality, training, and program development have been our focus this semester. To your right you see a list of faculty members who serve CISTL as an advisory board. They meet with CISTL staff regularly to discuss online programming, faculty training, and other issues concerning online initiatives at IU Northwest. They also serve faculty members by mentoring those who earn Online Course Design Grants while they design and teach their online course. We are very grateful for their time, energy, and enthusiasm!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF ONLINE TEACHING I

In March of this year, 12 faculty members graduated from Online Teaching I, which is a four-week online course aimed at giving faculty members the unique experience of an online student while teaching them fundamentals of quality online course design and delivery.

Are you interested in taking Online Teaching I? One class started on May 7th, and was full!

The next offering starts on July 23rd and ends August 19th. That class is full, but you can email Angela at asolic@iun.edu if you are interested in a fall offering (Sept. 16 - Oct. 5th).

If you already teach online, but haven’t had any formal training, contact Angela because she has a process that will help all online instructors at IUN get ‘on the same page’ without taking too much time.
THE ONLINE COURSE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Our students are our top priority when it comes to any initiative involving courses. Online courses are no different, which is why we have spent a lot of time figuring out how to best prepare our quality instructors to make the shift to online teaching. We think we have a great program to bring all faculty members (experienced and inexperienced) current with the best ways to design and teach online courses. We are also dedicated to making sure that our online courses are properly evaluated so our instructors get feedback about what they’re doing well and what might be able to be improved. Our program will currently be used for recipients of CISTL course development grants.

We are currently working out the specific details of the program, but certainly will have a checklist of standards the courses must meet before they’re taught, an evaluation a month or so into the course, and a post-course evaluation by a mentor as well as by the students.

Call for Grants!

Are you interested in receiving a grant to develop a new online course? Grant recipients will be very well trained and have a fantastic course once they are through the program! The grant provides a monetary stipend for course development- fully online courses only, though. Here’s the really short form. They will be collected through MAY 25th!

Online Course Grant Proposal Link

What’s up CISTL’s Sleeves?

We are planning a fall institute day that will hopefully occur the week before the semester starts. We are considering some relevant, practical workshops, and perhaps a special speaker.

We’re also working on an idea that could provide a ‘location’ or ‘hub’ for all faculty to get help with instructional design, technology, and teaching strategies!

The focus for this coming academic year.....

We want to make sure all faculty members know that CISTL is a place to go for all types of teaching. While it seems like our focus is Online, that isn’t everything! What most people don’t know is that if you learn how to teach online, you’ll almost always become a better traditional teacher! So, we will be paying a lot of attention on pedagogies and technologies that work for all teaching modalities.

Have you ever heard of the “Flipped Classroom”? What about “Peer Instruction”, “Problem-Based Learning” or “Project-Based Learning”? Look for some future workshops on these particular areas that are really hot topics in higher education. If there are other areas that interest you, please contact CISTL and let us know!