Hello,

Hopefully, you have heard that CSU is moving away from Blackboard and switching to Moodle, as our new course management system. Blackboard will no longer be available for supporting courses once the fall semester starts.

This decision was made based on a variety of reasons. First, the expense of Blackboard is more than six times that of Moodle. Second, the features and flexibility offered in Moodle exceed that of what we had in Blackboard. Third, the support received from the company when issues arise is historically much more timely and service oriented with Moodle. Finally, the majority of those who piloted the system found it to be preferable to Blackboard.

Now, we would like to encourage you to access your course shells in Moodle and begin to develop the course materials you need for your classes this semester. You can now access your shells through http://csumoodle.remote-learner.net. Students will be loaded into the course shells the week before classes start.

Knowing that everyone has different learning styles and preferences when learning new software, Instructional Services has created a variety of support options:

Get In and Play - If you prefer to just start playing around with Moodle, jump in. Moodle has several features that help make this type of learning successful. For instance, almost every option available has a corresponding blue help circle. Just click on the circle and a window will pop up explaining what that option does and how it can be configured.

Register for a Workshop - If you prefer to have someone walk through the software with you, register for a workshop on the eLearning page. Workshops will be held Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 2:30 in LIB144, Aug. 17 - 19 and Aug 24 - 26. Conversion (*moving a Blackboard course into Moodle*) workshops will be held Tuesday through Thursday from 11am to noon in LIB144 Aug 17 - 19. All workshops can be attended through Elluminate, if you are unable to make it to campus.

Registration and Elluminate access information will be available on the eLearning site at http://library.csu.edu/elearning/ beginning Wednesday, August 11.

Drop In for Support - If you just have a question you can't figure out or want a little one-on-one support, please plan on stopping by Instructional Services from 3 to 6 pm in LIB303 on Monday through Friday, August 16 - 27. We will have our Moodle support team available to help answer your questions. Again, access through Elluminate will also be available for those unable to make it to campus during this time. Please check the eLearning site for access instructions.

Investigate the Answer Online: When you have questions, you may want to just search for the answer using some of the resources below. We are in the process of creating and purchasing additional resources. They will be released as they become available.

* New Jersey's Science and Technology University has put together some good tutorials on a variety of different tasks that can be completed in Moodle - http://moodle.njit.edu/tutorials/faculty/

* Check out the vast information available at Moodle's own document and support page at http://docs.moodle.org/en/Teacher_documentation

* The text: Moodle Course Conversion is available through the CSU Library's electronic reserves - just search the reserves for "moodle" and use "moodle" as the password when asked at http://library.csu.edu/cr/index.html

* Access a tutorial at: http://online-edu.cc.muroran-it.ac.jp/

We are planning additional email broadcasts, so watch your email and share the information with you colleagues.

If you have any questions regarding the transition, please do not hesitate to email me.

Liz Osika
Interim Associate Dean
Library and Instructional Services
eosika@csu.edu