

July 2006

To: FSU Campus Community
From: Michael Harris, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Subj: WebCT Vista Implementation Project

The WebCT Vista Implementation Project officially began July 1, 2006. Representatives from WebCT/Blackboard were on campus to run an orientation workshop for the members of the Core Implementation Team (CIT). The CIT members who participated in the workshop included co-project managers Gloria Lukusa-Barnett and John Urbanick along with Randy Vance, Bill Knapp, Steve Miller, Vicki Deur, Kris Rassmussen, Jonathan Taylor, Kimn Carlton-Smith, Cheryl Cluchy, Eunice Merwin, and Jim Cook. The CIT currently includes a diverse mixture of faculty and staff selected to represent the concerns of academics, technology, and administration. The WebCT/Blackboard facilitators Mark Valjkov and Jack Carter offered the CIT a lot of professional wisdom and constructive feedback that assisted the Ferris team in developing a preliminary timeline and identifying workstreams needed for the successful implementation of our migration to WebCT Vista.

Membership within CIT will continue to grow and evolve over time as the migration from WebCT CE 4 to WebCT Vista takes shape throughout the 2006/7 academic year. In the weeks and months to come, questions and concerns about the migration to WebCT Vista should be directed to members of the CIT. The CIT's goal is to provide regular status updates through a number of outlets—FYI, the Torch, Lotus Notes, the MyFSU portal, and a weblink from the Center for Faculty Teaching and Learning's webpage. In addition, the CIT will provide open "interactive" access (e-mail and discussion forums) to the campus community via a WebCT site. It is important for everyone at Ferris State University to engage in and become actively involved with this project as it will have significant impact on the learning that takes place now and in the future.

The implementation project took the next important step with training faculty and technology staff on the Vista platform. The following faculty and staff completed the Vista training and received Certification from WebCT: Enid Carlson-Nagel, Warren Klope, Eunice Merwin, Susan Hastings-Bishop, Jonathan Taylor, Mike Berghoef, Kimn Carlton-Smith, Sandy Burns, Amy Buse, Kim Hancock, Gloria Lukusa-Barnett, Steve Lyman, and Rick Van Zant. A few members of the Training Team, Randy Vance, John Schmidt, Susan Fogarty, Amy Kavanaugh, **and** Susan Buchinski, participated in some of the a week-long workshop learning about administration aspects as well as instructor/designer aspects of the WebCT Vista platform. They will complete their certification soon and join the others as Vista Specialist. Bill Knapp completed his training this Spring and he is our first graduate of the WebCT Vista Specialist training program.

Since the end of April, Debby Buck and the Center staff have worked diligently to make all the arrangements for both on-campus workshops as well as coordinate information between all the Ferris community and the WebCT/Blackboard Corporate Office.

Participants from the two workshops are very excited about the dynamic possibilities WebCT Vista provides to Ferris, whether from the perspective of engaging students and faculty, or providing dynamic collaboration across college campuses and divisions, or supporting our efforts to build a learner-centered campus.