## TRANSFORMING ONLINE COURSE DESIGN THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

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### **Abstract**

Montclair State University provided an institute for online teaching and learning for faculty who are interested in online teaching. During the 2011 Summer Institute for Online Teaching and Learning, faculty were taught new technology tools, Blackboard functions, and online teaching pedagogy. The Technology Training and Integration (TTI) team added instructional design workshops to the symposium. The intention of the ID workshop was to connect and implement symposium materials into their current or future online course design. Using a Blackboard template for their new course design helped to accomplish this goal.



# Background

MSU offered over 300 online classes in the 2010-2011 academic year. In the upcoming school year, MSU will start to offer complete online programs. It is also necessary, however, to offer a structured online course format for each online program. The Technology Training and Integration (TTI) team developed and utilized a research-based template for Blackboard online courses.



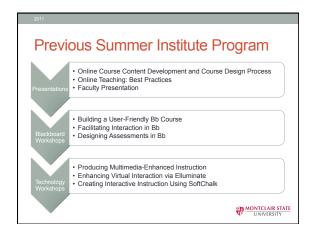
## The Main Concern

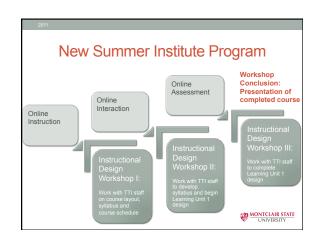
When implementing new online programs and courses, one of the major concerns is the quality of the online teaching and learning.

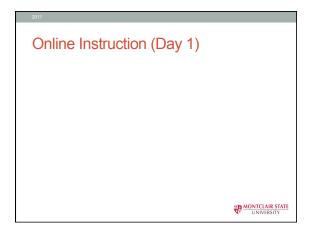
#### Solution

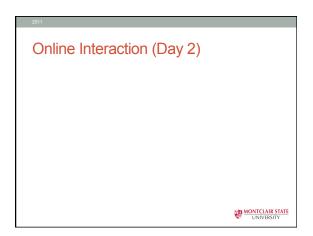
To address this issue during the institute, TTI decided to incorporate the new Blackboard template with the instructional design workshops through the annual summer institute. During the instructional design workshops, faculty not only learned online teaching pedagogy and technology tools, but also how to integrate them into their online courses.

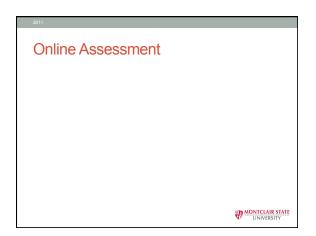


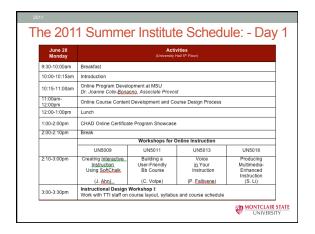


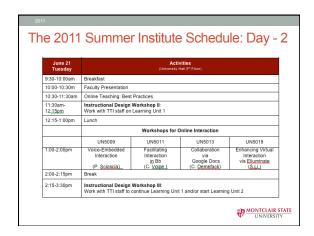


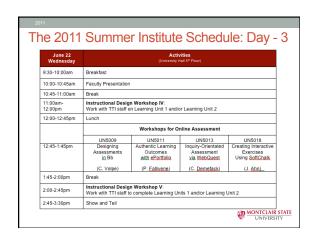












# Narrative Description of the Workshop Process

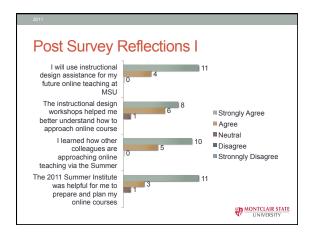
Each faculty group developed a new course or redesigned an existing course based on the new template. Each day of the ID workshop was dedicated to different aspects of pedagogy and technology. For instance, the first day of the institute was an overview of online courses and programs, online course content development and the course design process, and provided workshops for online instruction. The first ID workshop focused on the function of template design and preparing for the upcoming workshops, during which it was necessary to create a course schedule and design the first learning unit.

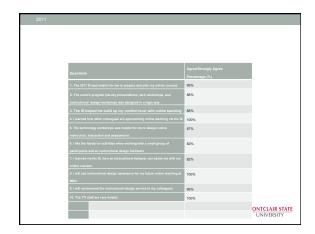


## Outcome: According to a Post-Symposium Survey

At the end of symposium, faculty shared their new online course. Some of them compared their newly-redesigned Blackboard courses to their previous courses. Most participants were able to integrate the template into their new course easily. The majority of faculty members were satisfied with the integration of technology workshops with instructional design workshops.







Post Survey Reflections II

- I liked the opportunity to think about my own courses and have time to consult with the OIT consultant leader. It helped facilitate my ability to think about online courses since I was actually working on it (rather than being given a whole bunch of workshops and then go figure it out for yourself at home after you've forgotten half the information.) Building in time for faculty to try things themselves with the OIT staff right there for guidance is really important and helped make the Summer institute very effective.
- Opportunities to hear from colleagues and how they have transformed their perspectives on teaching as a result of learning to teach online.



Post Survey Reflections III

- It gave me not only insights and tips about building an online course, but the workshop also provided me with ideas regarding the face-to-face courses I'm teaching.
- I liked the sample demonstrations of what faculty were doing at the end. Possibly doing that once on the second day could have been helpful too to give faculty ideas from their peers and then they would still have time to ask the OIT instructor questions if they wanted to do a similar thing. Overall, it was an effective summer institute that I found useful.



# Questions

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