



# MID-SOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**June 9, 2015**

## **MSCC Full-Time Instructors Complete LMS Training Certification**

All of Mid-South Community College's full-time faculty members and several adjunct instructors have earned learning management system certification for their efforts to facilitate student learning and engagement.

"I cannot think of another two-year school that can boast of such across-the-board technical certification for 100 percent of its full-time faculty," said Dr. Cliff Jones, MSCC Senior Vice President for Learning and Instruction.

"Much of the credit goes to Karen Mitchusson for providing the primary leadership, but I also appreciate our faculty for embracing this opportunity to enhance their instructional arsenal."

The screenshot displays the MyCruiser LMS dashboard for Mid-South Community College. The top navigation bar includes links for My Cruiser, Campus, Academics, Faculty, Administration, My Account, Campus Life, and My Finances. The main content area is divided into several sections: Campus Announcements (with a link to Office365 and Microsoft Office download instructions), My Classes (showing no classes for the current term), My Committees (showing no committees), My Clubs (MSCC Recreational Department with 115 messages), and a Mini Calendar for June 2015. A Personal Tools section on the left shows 24 new email messages and calendar links.

Mitchusson, Lead Faculty for Business and chair of the Instructional Technology Online Learning Committee, developed the training course and worked around instructors' schedules to provide the instruction. Fifty faculty members took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about CampusCruiser, a teaching/learning platform that supports face-to-face, hybrid, and online course delivery.

"All of our instructors have been required to use Cruiser for several years to document attendance and post grades, and some of them only knew how to utilize those features," Mitchusson said. "Through this training, they've learned there are many more tools to help students learn."



***Karen Mitchusson***

"A lot of our instructors were really surprised about all of the options available to them and were excited about implementing something new."

Instructors said the training included great content and gave them good ideas to enhance their efforts.

"Karen and the Instructional Technology Online Learning Committee have done an amazing job in making the faculty training course meaningful and fun at the same time," said Michelle McMillen, who teaches English classes in addition to serving as Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

"The feedback I received from students is that they really like the new structure, and they feel the format is easy to follow. I love the capabilities that using Course Content allows for designing courses. It makes the content more accessible and appealing."

"The training really allowed me to take full advantage of all that Cruiser can do," added Chris Parker, Lead Faculty, Health/Physical Education, who also serves as MSCC's Athletic Director and men's basketball coach.

"The training is hands on and teaches you both why you would do something and then how to do it for the best application with students. It has saved me time and has allowed me to plan and impact students much more efficiently."

Mark McClellan, Lead Faculty, History/Social Science, described the structure and training of the course as “outstanding.”

“It really helped me organize my online class in a more streamlined fashion,” he said. “As a result, students can go to one place in Cruiser and get all of the class information instead of having to visit four or five different sections. The training made the process of content delivery much simpler.”

Dr. Michael Lejman, a history instructor who also helped with the training, said the experience has proven valuable for him.

“When you leave your course planning to go to a training session or are asked to lead one, you hope you'll learn something you can deliver to your students,” Dr. Lejman said. “I had a positive experience both taking the training and helping facilitate.

“We worked through several questions and learned a great deal. There were plenty of little, normally time-consuming, issues that became clear pretty quickly with everyone working together.”

Erin Gordon, Lead Faculty, Science/Information Systems Technology, said the training has helped her enhance student interest.

“Learning about the in-depth features that CampusCruiser has to offer has increased the ability to engage the students, both those that take online/hybrid courses as well as those enrolled in the traditional delivery classes,” she said.

Mitchusson said the overall effort began with a review of online classes.

“We’ve really increased the number of online courses the last couple of years, and we wanted to make sure we were providing a more uniform structure,” she said. “We want our students to be able to go from one course to another as seamlessly as possible.”

“We started off with our online instructors as a test group for the training, and then we extended it to everyone. Everyone knows the capabilities of Cruiser now, and they can decide what particular tools fit best with their courses.”

The training included four face-to-face sessions of up to 90 minutes, as well as out-of-class assignments.

“The instructors weren’t just listening; they interacted with Cruiser and completed assignments, just like they were taking a real online course,” Mitchusson said.

“They were enrolled both as an instructor and as a student, so they had the

opportunity to see how the program works from both sides. It's a great approach because it ensures that all of the instructors are on the same level as far as knowing what the software will do."

While the effort has been time consuming for trainers and trainees, it has made a positive impact.

"I think all of our instructors learned something they can use to enhance their courses, and that was our goal," Mitchusson said. "We're all busy and feel like our time is valuable, but if we can participate in something that makes us think, 'Oh, wow, I'm glad I went,' it's certainly worth the effort."

For information about Mid-South Community College, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, email [admissions@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:admissions@midsouthcc.edu), call (870) 733-6728, or see the website at [www.midsouthcc.edu](http://www.midsouthcc.edu).