

# TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHT

eLearning

## FEBRUARY 2016



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### LILIA P. CANTU & BLACKBOARD

Instructor Cantu teaches University College courses. She has been teaching hybrid courses every spring for three years. Hybrid courses blend the features of face-to-face and online courses, combining the best of both worlds. "Blackboard is my instructional partner," says Cantu. Discussion boards have been an instrumental part in student learning for her hybrid courses. Since her classes only meet once a week, discussion boards allow them to continue the

conversation after meeting face-to-face. Her students have given her positive feedback on using Blackboard discussion forums. They particularly like the Meet and Greet discussion forum because they get to know each other, coming together as a community by replying to each other, and offering words of encouragement. "It helps promote a sense of community and support," she says. She utilizes Blackboard Grade Center to keep her grades organized and current, letting students know where they stand in the course throughout

the semester. Cantu says that the Grade Center is beneficial, because it helps her pinpoint the areas of difficulty for students, thus aiding the preparation for early alert reports (Advising and Mentoring) to intervene and retain students.

"I realize that there is a lot more that I don't know, but the reason I do it is to challenge myself since I am so intimidated by technology, and I realize that it (technology) is here to stay, so I might as well embrace it and learn as much as I can about it to facilitate student learning," Cantu noted.

# CONGRATULATIONS!