INNOVATION

Mobile Access for CampusConnection

Students arrived at North Dakota campuses this fall with a record number of smartphones, iPads, and other mobile devices. Anytime, anywhere access has truly become the norm for students and instructors. In response to this exploding trend, CampusConnection - the student system of the North Dakota University System - is now available for mobile access across the University System. The mobile link is https://m.cnd.ndus.edu.

Through this link, students can use their iPhones, iPads, Androids, and most other mobile devices to view their class schedule, exam schedule (where it is used), and grades. The secure, easy-to-use interface also provides advisor information, waitlist status, and student calendars. On the financial front, students will be able to check their school bills, the status of their financial aid, and account activity. In the future, students will even be able to register classes through their mobile device.

Instructors too can use their smartphones to check teaching schedules, exam schedules, class rosters, grade rosters, and view a list of their advisees.

Currently, most features are “view only,” but enhancements are already being planned for the mobile environment. An app will soon be available for download in iTunes and updates will be made to the existing apps for UND and NDSCS.

ACCESS

New Building?

Are you aware that there is a SBHE Policy and a NDUS Procedure that defines information technology (IT) and a procedure to follow for gaining approval to purchase IT systems and services? SBHE Policy (1901.3) and NDUS Procedure (1901.3) define the criteria that must be followed.

NDUS System Information Technology Services (SITS) and all NDUS institutions are to follow Procedure 1901.3 to gain approval from the NDUS CIO prior to making specific IT purchases. SITS has been delegated authority to ensure SITS and NDUS institutions follow the procedure and to report to the Legislative IT Committee those projects that are classified as “large projects” as defined in North Dakota Century Code (NDCC).

The NDUS definition of information technology includes, but is not limited to: hardware, software, services and supporting infrastructure to manage and deliver information using voice, data and video.

NDUS Procedure 1901.3 spells out the IT systems and services of specific types, dollar amounts and/or of specific interest within the NDUS Strategic Architecture that require the NDUS CIO’s approval. If in doubt, request approval.

For additional information and the process for submitting a request for approval, see SBHE Policy 1901.3 and NDUS Procedure 1901.3. More information can be found on the NDUS website under the Policy & Procedures section.
EXCELLENCE

Upgrade to E-mail/Calendaring Service

Microsoft will be upgrading the NDSU e-mail and calendaring service to Office 365 over the weekend of September 22-23. The new service is built around the familiar platform of Microsoft Outlook and will retain that look and feel. But the new service will expand capacity and increase capabilities for all users.

This upgrade affects all faculty and staff at BSC, DCB, DSU, LRSC, NDSCS, NDSU, UND, USC, and the NDUS System Office and System Information Technology Services. It does NOT affect MaSU, MSU, or VCSU. It also does not affect student e-mail/calendaring systems.

Office 365 is Microsoft’s web-based service. In addition to the e-mail and calendaring services, it will include instant messaging, conferencing, file sharing, and Office Web Apps which allows for editing Office documents in a web browser.

See the Training Tidbit below to get ready for Office 365. More information can be found at http://sits.ndus.edu/O365.

CAMPUS CORNER

Williston State College Facilitates the Exploration of New Technologies

As a result of facility renovation and technology innovation, WSC has transformed its library into a true Learning Commons. A New and Emerging Technologies Counter has been added providing students, faculty, and staff a hands-on experience with today’s latest technologies.

It is difficult, if not impossible, for most of us to keep up the rapid changes in technology. Some of these technologies are in the startup phase and may be too costly. Other technologies are not yet understood by consumers. A little hands-on experience can go a long way in increasing understanding and awareness of today’s latest technologies.

The New and Emerging Technologies Counter showcases the hottest advancements and tools. Currently, items available for exploring include Samsung, Apple, and Kindle tablets, a laser keyboard, and a smartphone robot. A Microsoft Surface table is slated to be the next addition.

The New and Emerging Technologies Counter is offered through a partnership between the WSC IT Department, Distance Education Department, and Learning Commons. The partnership will foster an environment of innovation that will allow faculty to explore new ways to integrate technology into their classes, staff to utilize technologies to perform their jobs more efficiently, and students to realize the potential of technology in their education and life.

This latest-technology playground will serve as a real time experience to keep abreast and stay ahead of some of today’s most amazing technologies. For information, contact leon.walter@willistonstate.edu.

Training Tidbit

Getting Ready for Office 365

Microsoft will be upgrading the current online services including e-mail and calendars the weekend of September 22-23. To get ready for this migration there are only two things you need to do:

1. Change your e-mail password.
2. Check your computer and software for compatibility requirements

More information can be found at http://sits.ndus.edu/O365.