

UW-System's Learning Technology Development Council

Benefits to UW-Superior

Submitted by Dr. Lisa A. Larson, Coordinator of Instructional Development, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Wisconsin-Superior

UW-System's **Learning Technology Development Council (LTDC)** provides UW-Superior with financial support, administrative support, and professional development that would otherwise be extremely difficult and costly to provide using campus resources alone. The Learning Technology Development Council (LTDC) is made up of representatives from the 13 UW campuses plus UW Colleges. The LTDC is a recognized unit of the UW System Office of Learning and Information Technology (OLIT) under the Office of Academic Affairs. OLIT's Director of Learning Technology Development Lorna Wong leads the LTDC, among other duties.

The LTDC's **Mission** is to encourage System-wide collaboration and individual campus efforts which promote professional development in the effective use of learning technologies and explore new teaching and learning applications of existing and emerging technologies. The goal of these efforts is to improve student learning outcomes. The LTDC is wholly committed to the use of technology-enhanced learning to address broader initiatives such as the Wisconsin Growth Agenda, the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes, and the AACU High-Impact Education Practices.

See the LTDC webpage: <http://www.uwsa.edu/olit/ltdc/>

Financial Support

Pass-through Funding: For over ten years the LTDC has provided pass-through funding to each campus including UW Superior. This funding is divided among campuses according to their percentage of FTE in UW System. At UW-Superior this funding includes:

- ◇ Funding of one full-time, 12-month Academic Staff position
(Lisa Larson, Senior Information Processing Consultant)
- ◇ Supplies and Expenses budget for learning technologies support
(in account 115-671015-6)

Grant Programs: The Learning Technology Development Council (LTDC) advocates for effective use of technology in teaching and learning and for the advancement of the innovative use of technology in the classroom and the online environment for the enhancement of student learning. The LTDC's two grant programs have supported projects that advance the innovative use of technology for teaching and learning and projects that provide faculty and instructional development in the effective use of technology in teaching and learning.

- ◇ The LTDC's **Curricular Redesign Grant Program** has provided the **nine UW-Superior faculty and staff** with stipends and support for the integration of a learning technology into their own courses. Many of the **16 courses** impacted by the grant projects resulted in long-term integration of the technology into teaching and learning at UW-Superior. UW-Superior has also benefitted from these Curricular Redesign Grants at other campuses through the sharing of information and best practices at the LTDC Conference, the President's Summit, and at LTDC Spring and Fall face-to-face meetings of LTDC Representatives. This program is unlikely to continue beyond FY12 without focused support.

- ◇ **Two UW-Superior faculty and staff** have led projects supported by the LTDC's **Emerging Technology Grant Pilot Program**. (The pilot program ran from 2007-2010.) The grant funding provided necessary support for two projects from which benefitted others in the campus community.

Administrative Support

OLIT's Director of Learning Technology Development and the LTDC provide much-needed coordination and negotiation that saves UW System and UW-Superior time and money each year. The Director of Learning Technology Development's negotiations of contracts with technology vendors for tools such as the Desire2Learn course management system, the Elluminate web conferencing tool, and the ePortfolio tool offer offers significant economies of scale that could not be achieved in single-campus endeavors.

- ◇ The Director of Learning Technology Development provides coordination and negotiation of central system **Desire2Learn** administration and support and professional development and support for D2L Site Administrators on each campus (Stacy Leno). This information sharing and technical support saves UW-Superior's Site Administrator significant time and effort in troubleshooting and in the development of best practices for D2L campus-level administrative processes.
- ◇ The LTDC's **Pilot Testing Projects** benefit UW-Superior by providing technical information on emerging technologies and by developing and sharing best practices for teaching and learning with those technologies. As a small campus with limited staff and equipment, UW-Superior saves significant time and effort due to the pilot testing organized and facilitated by the LTDC and conducted by other UW System campuses. UW-Superior also benefits from pilot projects that it participates in, such as the recent web conferencing/Elluminate project, by gaining experience with technologies that would otherwise be too expensive and too support-intensive to implement on our own. Recently, the products examined through the pilot projects on the **D2L e-Portfolio**, 2009-2011, and **Elluminate** for web conferencing, Spring and Fall 2010, have been recommended for funding as a common system in Fiscal Year 2012. Both would be greatly beneficial to UW-Superior students, faculty, and staff at relatively low cost, and would comprise less than 5% of UW System's technology budget.
- ◇ The LTDC also organizes and administers the **Quality Matters Consortium** of 8 UW campuses, including **UW-Superior**. This systemwide negotiation with Quality Matters has brought a discounted yearly membership fee to UW-Superior. Campus Distance Learning Center staff and online faculty have also gained professional development through this Consortium.

Professional Development

The LTDC has provided professional development to UW-Superior faculty and staff through its support to systemwide grant projects and sponsorship of conferences and workshops.

- ◇ The **nine UW-Superior faculty and staff** cited above received professional development in the form of pedagogical and technical training on the use of emerging technologies for learning by participating in the LTDC's intercampus Curricular Redesign Grant Projects in 2005-06 and 2006-07. An additional **five campus faculty and staff** gained professional development on ArcGIS via the 2010 LTDC Emerging Technology grant-supported

- project. These intercampus grant projects pooled the technology skills and resources of several campuses, eliminating the need for each campus to gain expertise in each technology.
- ◇ **Four UW-Superior faculty and staff** gained valuable networking opportunities and best practices on existing learning technologies and exposure to learning technologies not yet available at UW-Superior at the LTDC's systemwide **October 2009 Conference**. **Three UW-Superior faculty and staff** participated in the LTDC-supported **Digital Storytelling Conference and Project** in FY2009.
 - ◇ **Over 20 UW-Superior faculty and staff** will benefit from the 2011 **President's Summit**, co-sponsored by the LTDC. Several attended the 2010 event, which also included presentations on teaching and learning with technology.
 - ◇ **Professional development funding** for each LTDC Representative was provided annually from pre-2004 through 2010. Through this funding Lisa Larson was able to participate in one national conference per year . She passed on updated information and training to the campus community through workshops and roundtables.

Learning Technology Development Council Vision

As the Learning Technology Development Council (LTDC), our vision is one of highly engaged learning and teaching in a collaborative environment enhanced by the effective use of technology to foster active learning and critical thinking. We require robust, readily accessible learning technologies characterized by operational and functional excellence. At the same time, we introduce and support both innovative and more traditional, standard technologies to maintain a thoughtful balance among the needs and interests of early, mainstream, and late adopters. Finally, we want and expect a carefully documented assessment of student learning and the efficacy of the technological component.

LTDC Grant Project Participants at UW-Superior 2005 – present Curricular Redesign Grant Program and Emerging Technology Grant Program			
Name	Technology Focus	Course(s) Involved	Semester
Bajjali, William	ArcGIS	Faculty workshops	Fall 2006-Spring 07 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Project Spring 2010 LTDC Emerging Technology Grant Project
Larson, Lisa	Custom web-based learning environment on information literacy	Writing courses	Spring 2010 LTDC Emerging Technology Grant Project
Fujieda, Eri	Cmap concept mapping software	Sociology 201	Fall 2007-Spring 08 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
McCormick, John	LiveJournal blogging tool and GoogleDocs wiki	ENGL 101 College Writing	Fall 2007-Spring 08 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
Kahler, Heather	Skype	Math 090 Fundamentals of Mathematics	Fall 2007-Spring 08 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
Fanning, Tammy	Clickers	Grant-related co-curricular activities	Fall 2007-Spring 08 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
Salzer, Maureen	GoogleDocs wiki	ENGL 101 College Writing	Fall 2006-Spring 07 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
Henderson, Miki	Learn@UW-Superior Discussions	TED 253,353,486, 270,352,353,735 F2F and online	Fall 2006-Spring 07 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
Fabian, Tracy	QuizVideo	Counseling 728	Fall 2006-Spring 07 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
Jacobs, Laura	Custom tutorial developed with Captivate	TED 253, TED 352, TED 734, COUN 704 information literacy sessions	Fall 2006-Spring 07 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Intercampus Project
Reinertsen, Ray	Custom tutorials developed with Flash	HHP 102 Health and Wellness	Fall 05 – Spring 06 LTDC Curricular Redesign Grant Project