Reflecting on the Impact of the Pandemic on Higher Education

Michael A. Baston, author of the Inside Higher Ed article, "From Crisis Comes Opportunity," states that, “Higher education's response to the pandemic has planted the seeds for long-lasting positive change on college campuses.”

The four changes cited are:

1. **Expanded virtual services.** This included not only educational platforms but also telehealth, online career and academic counseling, etc.

2. **A shifting mind-set.** As faculty and staff tried to determine how to support online students, the result was a greater understanding of how we can better serve our students.

3. **Improved career pathways.** Savvy institutions are increasing their efforts to produce graduates ready for the workforce and improve the workforce pipeline.

4. **A renewed focus on equity.** Inclusive excellence requires a culture of inquiry, asking difficult questions about the intentional and unintentional consequences of recruitment, advising, professional development and advancement.

Read the full article.

Take the Challenge: Media Initiatives to Promote Connection with Your Students
We have some initiatives at UCR University Extension to promote our instructors’ connection with their students.

1. All online instructors should create an intro video answering these questions.
2. All online instructors should offer their students at least one optional synchronous (Zoom) meeting in each course.
3. Thanks to a grant, we are making some multimedia equipment available for instructors to borrow.

While fully implementing these ideas will take some time, we would like to know which instructors are interested in carrying out any of these items now, so that we can support you and get feedback on your implementation. Please complete this short survey if you are interested.

Additional Resources:

- Webinar: Video Recording Best Practices
- Tips for Optional Synchronous (Zoom) Sessions
- Webinar: Zoom Sessions Best Practices

Innovative Student Project

Kudos to our College Counseling instructor, Robert Blanck, who has found an innovative way to celebrate his students’ achievements. He is collating all of the students’ assignments into an e-book which will be distributed to them at the end of the course. In addition to the student work, the booklet includes a table of contents, graphics, and Robert’s notes. He describes it as, “a nice souvenir for the students to illustrate how much work they produced.”

Please send your innovative ideas to Ann Kwinn.

Get Your Spring Courses Ready for a March 29 Term Start

As a reminder, please import and update or develop your courses for the spring term starting March 29.

- If you have taught for UCR University Extension in Canvas before, you will import your Canvas course and update any dates or other out-of-date information.
- If you have not taught for UCR University Extension in Canvas, you will first need to import the course, UCRX Template (which is a Canvas
course with a home page and module structure but no course content) before you add your own course content.

Instructors should take the course, *Teaching with Canvas at UCR Extension* on their [Canvas dashboard](https://ucr.instructure.com). Please contact us when your course is ready for the new term. This should be two weeks before the start of your course. Support questions can be directed to support@ucx.ucr.edu. Ann Kwinn is available to discuss your course design.


## Take a Free Course in the Online Course Design and Instruction Program

Our instructors are encouraged to take a course in the *Online Course Design and Instruction* certificate program. You may enroll in a course for free within one year after teaching for UCR University Extension. We will offer one course in this program per term. The next course, *Successful Online Teaching*, will run from April 10 – May 16.

The other courses are:

- *Instructional Design for Online Courses*
- *Effective Assessment in Online Courses*
- *Tools and Techniques for Online Course Development*

Learn more about the program, or contact Ann Kwinn. If you are interested, please email D. Dayton expressing enrollment interest in a certain course, and stating that you are a UCR University Extension instructor.

## Instructor Expertise Survey

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Instructor Expertise Survey. In this survey, we will ask you about the current topics that you teach for us, in addition to some hidden knowledge and skills we may not be aware of – to better utilize our instructors. We will also ask about your interest in upcoming professional development and ask you to share your teaching successes.
**Mandatory Training**

If you have received a notification to complete the required trainings below, please complete them as soon as possible.

- *UC Cybersecurity* training course and
- *UC Sexual Harassment Prevention* training course

If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact [Ana Puello](#).

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