Project Details

Title	Standardization of web-based courses	Status	COMPLETED
Category	6-Supporting Institutional Operations	Updated	09-15-2011
Timeline		Reviewed	09-26-2011
Planned Project Kickoff 03-17-2010		Created	03-15-2010
Actual Completion 04-26-2012		Last Modified	04-26-2012

- 1: Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:
- A: This project will focus on the college's web based courses which, at present, have few guidelines or perimeters. At the completion of the particular project, the committee will have evaluated multiple available platforms and will recommend one for campus wide use.

- 2: Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:
- A: When Mineral Area College began offering online classes, the only requirements were that the students have computer access and the instructors be willing to teach in this venue. As a result, we now have 4 or 5 different platforms from which instructors can choose no training for instructors who are transitioning from the classroom to online courses, and few assurances in place that students are being honest in completing their work. As we offer more and more online classes, we now have a system that is confusing to students and frustrating to instructors.

- 3: List the organizational areas -- institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:
- A: Any discipline offering online instruction will be affected as will any student who chooses to enroll in these types of classes.

- 4: Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:
- A: One key area that will change is the amount of platforms made available. After the action project committee studies all the platforms currently in use, it is recommended that the college reduce the number of platforms to minimize confusion for students. Currently, students aren't always aware of the various platforms that instructors use and often assume that current instructors use the same platform that previous instructors did. Additionally, multiple platforms typically require different login identifiers and access codes for students. This confusion can frustrate those involved and delay participation in courses. It is predicted that simplifying and standardizing web course development will improve the online learning experience.

- 5: Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

- A: The original development of this Project primarily included the investigation of online platforms with secondary focal points including instructor training and academic integrity in online coursework. However, due to the complexity of these issues, this Project now will be divided into multiple Projects: Platform Standardization (the current project), Instructor Training, and Online Integrity (future projects). It is predicted that Platform Standardization can be accomplished in one year and the remaining two Projects accomplished within an additional year.

- 6: Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:
- A: The Action Committee group will set timelines and benchmarks to keep the group on task and to monitor the project's success.

- 7: Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:
- A: The committee will take in consideration the following indicators in determining its success. By the end of this project, these changes should be taking place:
    - Elimination of excessive platforms. This should alleviate much student confusion about using so many multiple platforms, and there should be fewer student how-to questions about setting up their parts of the courses
    - This should result in fewer complaints, phone calls, e-mail, and dropped classes from students. We should get feedback from instructors that their jobs are now easier for now having standardized formats.