



LANDMARK COLLEGE

DEPT. OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

New IT Initiatives – Fall 2009

I want to highlight some of the exciting new IT initiatives that have been initiated for the fall this year.

As you may be aware by now, we are in the process of migrating to **Read & Write Gold** text to speech software after an extensive and inclusive evaluation over the past year. All new students will be required to purchase Read & Write Gold instead of Kurzweil – although we'll continue to fully support Kurzweil for returning students. Contact the Help Desk if you need a copy of the software and visit the Technology Learning Services web page, <https://intranet.landmark.edu/tls/training.cfm#workshop> to learn about training opportunities on this and other software.

Informed by faculty feedback, we've re-designed the **EAB 102 smart classroom** to include tables with electrical power, a new instructor workstation, and white boards. We've also installed a state-of-the-art interactive white board in EAB 105. And, we continue to roll out **Moodle** course management software at an accelerated rate with approximately 60 faculty now planning to utilize it in their fall courses. As faculty already know, we've also set up an automated process to post personalized **class schedules** for both students and faculty in their Groupwise calendar which will include date, time, and location for every class. In addition, we've purchased a **clicker classroom response system** (32 clickers) that can be used in any class or workshop to solicit instant response and feedback from participants. Contact the Help Desk for more information or to reserve the system.

As new members of the Liberated Learning Consortium, Academic Affairs and IT are collaborating on the evaluation of **advanced speech recognition technologies** and their impact on students with learning differences. This will give us the opportunity to contribute to research and practices to foster effective learning environments using this technology in collaboration with universities and companies from around the world.

We will also be introducing a new service, **NotifyLink**, to students, faculty, and staff to automatically synchronize Groupwise e-mail, calendar, and contact information with these applications on mobile devices (e.g., Blackberries, iPhones, iPods, Windows mobile devices). Synchronization will occur through the user's mobile device service or through a wireless connection. There will be an annual fee of \$60/user. Contact the Help Desk for more information.

Also of note, we've installed a new projection system in the FAB auditorium, extended and streamlined wireless connectivity on campus, and worked with Student Affairs and others to implement a proximity-based card access system for some of the residence halls. We also



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continue to work with departments to develop or enhance web pages on our Intranet utilizing a new design template.

As we look to the fall and beyond, some of the major projects we are planning include developing a Facebook and enhanced web site presence for alumni, re-designing the public web site, evaluating and implementing student housing and judicial affairs software modules, upgrading our financial and student database systems, adding a second smart classroom, and extending sound systems to additional classrooms.

These are some of the projects IT is working on. I encourage you to look at a more complete list of current IT projects on our web site at <https://intranet.landmark.edu/it/index.cfm>.

Tom Manley
Chief Technology Officer