

SalukiTECHNews

TECHNOLOGY MENTOR PROGRAM EXPANDS

A pilot initiative to increase faculty adoption and integration of cutting-edge technology is available through Information Technology's Technology Mentor Program. The program allows faculty volunteers to undergo training on new technology introduced on campus. These mentors then assist departmental colleagues in integrating technology into their teaching practices. The program recently added 13 new mentors for a total of 28.

“The point of the program is to expose our faculty and staff to new technology, find the technology’s value and help the faculty see the capabilities that exist in the technology,” says Reza Habib, associate professor and undergraduate program director in the Department of Psychology. Habib was an early mentor program volunteer.

The peer-to-peer sharing program, which began in August, gives faculty and staff an increased

understanding of unfamiliar technology. Mentors undergo training sessions on programs including D2L (Desire2Learn), Top Hat Monocle and eBooks, as well as training on using tools, including the tablets distributed to all incoming freshmen as part of the Mobile Dawg initiative. One goal of the program is to



increase faculty comfort with and use of new technology to facilitate student engagement. Creating a consistent learning environment across classrooms and enriching the learning experience in each classroom will assist in student retention and success.

Mentors are asked to commit to a four-hour training session at the start of each semester, according to

Casey Rolape, program coordinator and lead for the Technology Mentor Program. “During this session, we familiarize mentors with the tablets and identify other tools and programs that are important to that department. In addition, we ask mentors to attend an hour-long session once a month to expand their knowledge base and confidence,” she added.

Mentors then lead workshops to familiarize faculty members in their respective departments with the programs, tools and technology concepts they learn. Each department determines its workshop content based on its unique

needs and interests.

“We hope to have a mentor available to faculty in each academic department to assist them when integrating technology into their pedagogy practices,” Rolape said.

Departments interested in the program may contact Rolape at 453-6131 or crolape@siu.edu.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NOTES

Security Tips

Information Security is providing a guide to five fundamental steps for maintaining technological security. The five steps are common sense, updating software, utilizing strong passwords, encryption and backups.

Read more at http://www.securingthehuman.org/newsletters/ouch/issues/OUCH-201410_en.pdf. For more information, email security@siu.edu.

Service Outages on December 20

Banner will be unavailable due to patching. Exchange (faculty and staff email) will be updated, with possible service outages.



SIU Emergency Alerts Reminder

SIU has updated to the Rave Emergency Alert system. For more information on SIU emergency alerts, visit <http://www.siu.edu/emergency>.

For instructions on adding or changing a phone number to the emergency alert system, follow the links below:

Employee Phone Update
<http://oit.siu.edu/salukitech/emergency/employee.php>

Student Phone Update
<http://oit.siu.edu/salukitech/emergency/student.php>

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