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## Startup Support

LSC-Online will be providing **extended hours** on:  
 Saturday, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>  
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 via a [virtual open lab](#) and [ticket support](#).

## Creator+ is Here!

We previewed Creator+ in [previous issues](#) of this newsletter. Well, Creator+ is now available in D2L to help you create engaging and interactive course content as well as dynamic learning experiences. It offers three new features to enhance your HTML course content files.

**Insert Element:** Explore your creativity with [Creator+ Elements](#), with a mix of static and dynamic elements that can be inserted into any course content file to increase learner engagement. Use them to deliver noteworthy, visual, related, and/or sequenced information in an appealing and interactive way.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| The energy boost  | Flavor and aroma  | Social aspect   | Cultural significance   | Taste variety   |

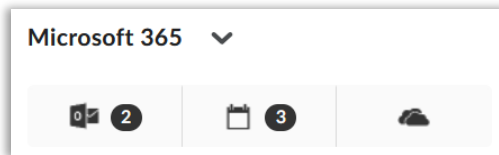
Coffee's most famous perk is the caffeine content. Caffeine stimulates the central nervous system, improving alertness, focus, and energy levels.

**Insert Practice:** Reinforce learning and provide valuable feedback with [Insert Practice](#) questions. Creator+ offers a range of practice exercises to allow learners to test their comprehension without the concern of impacting their course grade.

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## Major Changes to Email in D2L

The [Microsoft 365 Widget](#) has debuted in D2L! This new tool integrates Microsoft 365 directly into the D2L environment, allowing both faculty and students to manage Lone Star College (Outlook) emails, calendar, and OneDrive files seamlessly from within D2L. This means you'll be able to access your Lone Star College email directly from D2L.



Please note that while both the Microsoft 365 and D2L email systems will be available for the remainder of this semester, **D2L email will be retired after the Fall semester on December 18, 2024. Please be sure to forward any D2L emails that you wish**

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## Video Newsletter



Want to see some of these topics in action? Then watch [The Online Update](#), our video newsletter. Topics include Creator+ features, the Microsoft 365 widget, faculty support options, and more, all in about 5 minutes.

## Semester Start Reminders

Welcome to the Fall 2024 Semester at Lone Star College! Here are some links to help you prepare your course:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Faculty Assistance .....                       | <a href="#">Virtual Teaching Assistance Center (VTAC)</a>                 |
| Student Assistance .....                       | <a href="#">Virtual Learning Assistance Center (VLAC)</a>                 |
| Prep Your Course .....                         | <a href="#">Semester Start Checklist</a> ( <a href="#">Video Series</a> ) |
| Rosters not matching? .....                    | <a href="#">Reconcile D2L and iStar Rosters</a>                           |
| Not sure what to include in your course? ..... | <a href="#">Design Checklist and Syllabus Template</a>                    |
| Need help designing your course? .....         | <a href="#">Meet Your Instructional Designers</a>                         |
| Need some technology help? .....               | <a href="#">Meet Your Campus Representatives</a>                          |
| Want some training on D2L? .....               | <a href="#">VTAC Upcoming Events</a> and <a href="#">Training Library</a> |

## Respondus Monitor

By using LockDown Browser in conjunction with a webcam, Respondus Monitor allows students to take online assessments from a remote location - all while ensuring the integrity of the exam process. Here are some of the latest enhancements that Respondus has made to their product:



- Respondus Monitor now offers [three sensitivity levels for flagging](#): Strict, Standard, and Relaxed. You can choose the right level after exams are done, with Strict being perfect for closed-book tests and Relaxed for open-book exams.
- They have [boosted flagging accuracy](#) by improving video resolution and enhancing computer vision models, cutting false positives by 80%. Plus, students are now prompted to adjust their camera tilt and lighting for better face detection and video quality, making reviews more efficient for instructors.
- Instructors now get proctoring [results in under 10 minutes](#) instead of waiting four hours, thanks to real-time analysis during exams. If technical issues pop up, the analysis happens after the exam to ensure consistent results.

For more information about online proctoring, visit [Proctoring Options for Online Quizzes](#) in VTAC.

## D2L Email, cont.

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**to retain to your Lone Star College email account before that date.**

Additionally, we recommend that you start using the Microsoft 365 widget during this transition period (Fall Semester) so you can familiarize yourself with its usage before D2L email is retired. The widget can be found on the D2L homepage, on the right below your list of courses, and at the top of the [course homepage](#).

In addition to the widget, OneDrive has been added as an option for your students when submitting to Assignment Folders in D2L, allowing them to upload files straight from OneDrive without having to download them to their device first.

For more information on the Microsoft 365 Widget, please see our [Microsoft 365 Widget article](#) and [frequently asked questions page](#) in VTAC.

Need D2L support? Visit the [Virtual Teaching Assistance Center](#).

## Instructional Designers Return to Campus

Great news, faculty! We're thrilled to announce that instructional designers will now be located on each main campus, ready to help you elevate your course design and implementation. This is your chance to collaborate with them and make your courses even more engaging!

Instructional designers support:

- Online course design
- Course building
- A variety of other specialized, one-on-one strategies
- Group training requests and facilitation

Learn more from [Technologist or Designer: Who's the Best to Contact?](#)

But we've said this before...let's try it a new, fun way!

In the world of course design,  
Where learning goals align,  
The instructional designer's art,  
Plays a crucial, vital part.



Review the course's syllabus,  
Make it shine, no room for fuss.  
Then align the goals, so neat and fine,  
Learning outcomes in perfect line.

Next, modify the course's core,  
Content structure, never a bore.  
Set competencies that fit just right,  
To guide the students' academic flight.

Design a rubric, clear and bright,  
For every task, to mark and write.  
And when it's time to assess with ease,  
Assignments align with goals like keys.

So here's to those who craft and mold,  
Instructors' visions into gold.  
With creativity and skill so grand,  
They shape the future, hand in hand.

If you love it, say "Thanks Harlan!"  
If you hate it, blame ChatGPT!

| <h3>Technologist</h3>  | <h3>Designer</h3>   |
|--|---|
|  |  |
| Gradebook Support  | Course Design & Alignment   |
| Copy a Course / Merge Courses  | Professional Development / Group Training   |
| Granting Special Access  | Collaborative Course Creation   |
| <b>To learn more about all they do to help YOU, click <a href="#">HERE</a>.</b>    |   |

### Creator+ is Here, cont.

**Layouts:** Save time structuring your content with [Creator+ Layouts](#), which offer different arranged sets of panels for organizing content and help provide a more professional look.

Using these tools, you can easily create course content that is not only informative but also more engaging and effective. Start [exploring Creator+](#) today and watch your students thrive!

### D2L Fusion: On-Demand

Did you miss the Fusion Conference because of Hurricane Beryl? Thankfully, D2L offers many of the sessions on-demand. If you haven't already, [register for Fusion 2024](#) (completely free) and you'll be able to access the on-demand site and browse the many topics they offer.