

INSIDE INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2016

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Save the Date Announcements:

Coffee with Sarah: October 5, 9 am at Panera, 656 W. Washington Ave, Madison, WI

Quarterly IL Instructor Appreciation and Professional Development Meeting: November 4, 1 pm 21 N. Park Street, Room 7045: Grading with your Tablet (bring your tablet)

Distance Teaching & Learning Conference 2017 : July 25-27 dtlconference.wisc.edu



August Quarterly Meeting Recap

What a busy summer! Thanks to your hard work and dedication, many IL students were able to complete their courses by the end of August. This allowed some students to begin their fall semester coursework as planned without missing prerequisites and helped many others graduate and move forward with their career plans.

On August 19, DCS IL Course Instructors/Facilitators took a break from grading to participate in a hands-on workshop with Louis Loeffler, instructional designer with DCS. This workshop, titled "D2L+: How to Get the Most Out of the Platform" drew instructors from a variety of subject areas. If you were not able to attend, you may wish to explore a new UW online resource: Design + Teach + Engage: <https://designteachengage.wisc.edu/>

August marked the two year anniversary of DCS IL Instructor/Facilitator Quarterly Meetings. The Inside IL Newsletter is also in its third year. Your engagement with these professional development tools has had a large impact on student success in IL! Learning together has resulted in greater consistency in processes, a drastic reduction in student complaints, and a course completion rate of 60%!

In the next year, we will work together to reach a course completion rate of 70% for DCS IL students. Course Instructors/Facilitators can support this goal by continuing to provide affirmative, thorough, and motivational instruction through assignment feedback and by notifying the aca-

demic program director of any student concerns. UW-Extension Instructional Designers will continue to improve upon the look and feel of D2L to create more personalized courses. Eleven high-enrollment DCS IL courses will be revised this year. UW-Extension student success coaches will engage in early intervention to help students begin their coursework soon after registration.

Student Services now has extended hours. Student Service representatives will be available to assist students with program and process questions Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 6 pm, and Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Student Success Coaches will begin working with IL students. Success coaches will contact course instructors/facilitators on a monthly basis to check on students who have not been active in their courses (by submitting an assignment, completing a quiz, or posting to the discussion board) in the prior 21 days. If the instructor/facilitator also has not heard from the student, a success coach will reach out to the student. If you are aware of any planned absences from coursework or extenuating student circumstances, please post a note in LRMS/LPV.

Fun Fact: Time Requirement

Students who enroll in IL courses have 12 months from the date of enrollment to complete their course. If students are not able to complete their course in 12 months, they may contact student services to request an extension.

D2L Gem: Unit Welcome Message

One way to make a D2L course feel more personal is by posting unit welcome messages to the news feed. In a synchronous course, this message can be set to display on a specific date and be removed on a specific date. Since IL students work through their courses in an asynchronous fashion, unit welcome messages cannot be date-specific. Instead, "Create and Attach" a new "Additional Release Condition." Select the Condition Type "Submit to Drop-box" and under "Condition Details" select the prior unit (if the welcome message is for Unit 2, select Drop-box Folder Unit 1). Unit welcome messages is a great way to make a course feel more personal to students and to warn students of common errors or challenges in a particular unit. If you have any questions about how to set up unit welcome messages, please email your academic program director (il@dcs.wisc.edu)

Good Practice Reminder: Share your Concerns

Sometimes, students are working productively in their IL course, and then they disappear without warning. At other times, students share their concerns and challenges with their course instructor. If your student shares a concern or challenge with you, please make a note in LRMS/LPV. If you are concerned about a student for any reason, please contact your academic program director (il@dcs.wisc.edu). There are additional resources available to IL students, such as the online writing lab, student success coaches, and support for academic course completion plans. Often, students do not know that they can request additional support, or do not know how to ask for additional

support. A quick check-in with a student success coach can help struggling students persevere and complete their IL courses.

Introducing: Lindsey Smith

Lindsey Smith was pleased to join Independent Learning last summer as a French instructor. She has been a language instructor at UW-Madison since 2009, and has also taught at Luther College in Decorah, IA. Although Lindsey is originally from Stoughton, Wisconsin, her research has taken her to France many times, both as a teacher and as a student. She spent the 2014-2015 academic year teaching at Aix-Marseille Université, and has also worked as an elementary school language assistant in Guadeloupe. Inspired by her time in the French West Indies, she is currently completing a doctoral thesis on musicians in French Caribbean novels. Lindsey is fascinated by the diversity of regional cultures in France and around the francophone world. In her free time, she also studies Creole, Spanish, and Italian.

As a language instructor, Lindsey enjoys sharing her appreciation of francophone culture with students of all ages and levels. Her own interest in language learning began while she was still in elementary school, and she is always thrilled to foster younger students' curiosity about languages. She has led high school study abroad trips with World Learning, and has also been a counselor at a bilingual (French-English) summer camp in France. For Lindsey, it is essential to help students use their skills beyond the classroom, whether at home or abroad. When the opportunity arises, she also loves to teach friends and family how to prepare her favorite dishes from Guadeloupe.

A lifelong music enthusiast, Lindsey regularly shares her talents as an accompanist in the UW-Dance department. She has been studying Caribbean and West African percussion for the past decade, and often works with African dance classes on campus or around the Madison community. She is also an active member of a performing ensemble that specializes in music from Guinea.

