Within Our Sights: Toward National Leadership in Higher Education | October 18, 2013
Enabling Disruptive Technologies to Further Vision Project Goals

Roxbury Community College

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Campus Project

Learning on the Go: Improving Student Outcomes with Mobile Classrooms

In 2011, Roxbury Community College (RCC) established "Facilitated Learning" (FL), a comprehensive faculty development program focusing on increasing student success in developmental education classes. Faculty who participate learn how to integrate technology into their courses along with effective pedagogical approaches such as: constructivism, blended learning, collaborative learning and active learning. Building on that foundation, RCC began a pilot of mobile learning (m-learning) using Moodle Mobile in September 2013. The Moodle Mobile app, recently released on Google Play (for Android) and Apple iTunes (for iOS), connects to an installed Moodle server. It provides access to all course content (on and offline), messaging and notifications. According to a study done by Pew Internet & American Life (2010), African-Americans and Latina/os are significantly more likely to own a cell phone than their white counterparts (87% of blacks and Latina/os own a cell phone, compared with 80% of whites). The study also showed that African-American and Latina/os cell phone owners take advantage of a much wider array of their phones' data functions compared to white cell phone owners. Using mobile technology as a learning tool helps address the digital divide and infrastructure constraints (classroom versus computer lab space).

Vision Project Outcome Areas

- ✓ **College Participation**
- ✓ **College Completion**
- ✓ **Student Learning**
- ✓ **Preparing Citizens**
- ✓ **Closing Achievement Gaps**

Research and Data

Project Duration: *Fall 2013 - Ongoing*

- As of May 2013, 33 faculty completed the "Facilitated Learning" (FL) program. The m-learning pilot includes five of the faculty who completed the program. In January 2013, additional faculty from the FL fall cohort will be invited to join the pilot.
- Research shows that m-learning has the following advantages: life-long learning, learning inadvertently, learning in the time of need (on-demand), learning independent of time and location, and learning adjusted according to location and circumstances ("Mobile computing devices in higher education," Gikas & Grant, 2013).
- Over 60 faculty use Moodle as a companion tool with their face-to-face (f2f) courses and an additional 15-20 faculty have indicated interest or started basic training.
- 48% of RCC students have used Moodle to access course material this fall semester (2013).
- 77% of RCC students indicate that the college's technology has had a positive impact on their learning.