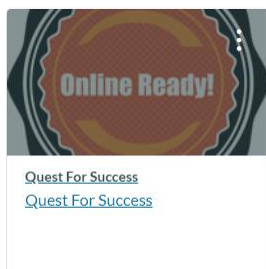Hi There!

You're receiving this announcement because you are enrolled in an online, hybrid or web-enhanced course this semester and your professor has chosen to participate in an online orientation short-course called Quest for Success. To access this course, you will need to log-in to Canvas, the RCCD online course management system. For information on how to log-in, visit the Canvas Information page (http://www.opencampus.com/students_canvas.html) on the Distance Education website. Once you've logged into Canvas, look for the course icon called **Quest for Success** and follow the directions contained in the course. You may log-in and start taking the course before the semester begins, and you should plan to complete it by the end of the first week of your semester.

The Quest for Success course consists of four short modules. Altogether, it will take about 2 hours to complete. You do not have to complete these modules all in one sitting, you may complete some work and then come back. The first module in Quest for Success focuses on an assessment called SmarterMeasure. SmarterMeasure gauges your readiness for self-regulated learning, competency based education, basic math skills, writing skills, and knowledge of technical terminology. Altogether there are seven components of SmarterMeasure:

- Individual Attributes – motivation, procrastination, willingness to ask for help, etc.
- Life Factors – Availability of time, support from family and employers, finances, etc.
- Learning styles – Based on the multiple intelligences model
- Technical Competency – Skills with using technology
- Technical Knowledge – Knowledge of technology terms
- On-screen Reading Rate and Recall
- Typing Speed and Accuracy

After taking the SmarterMeasure self-assessment you will receive a score report and a guide to interpreting your score. You'll be provided with an explanation of the score for each item tested in SmarterMeasure, and your report includes links to additional resources should you wish to improve in some of the areas that are tested.   You will need to download this report and save a copy of it.

Once the SmarterMeasure assessment is complete, you will complete an additional three modules that instruct you on what to expect in an online course. Each module has material presented in multi-media, text, and audio formats so that you can choose which format best suits your learning style. At the end of each module you will take a quiz based on the material presented. You will only be allowed to proceed to the next module when you've earned a perfect score in the previous module. You will be allowed to retake the quiz as often as necessary. When you have completed all of the modules, you will submit your scores and upload your SmarterMeasures report and they will be automatically sent to your instructor.

We hope that this short orientation will provide you with insights about yourself and also with information specifically about taking an online or partially-online class.

Best wishes for a great Fall Semester!

Dear Faculty,

Thank you for participating in the Quest for Success pilot. It is our opinion that even if your offer a perfectly designed online course, if students are not adequately prepared they will not be as likely to succeed. This pilot is an attempt to better prepare students for what to expect in an online or hybrid class.

We have constructed a single Canvas shell to house four Quest for Success modules, and have uploaded all participating instructors' students automatically in the shell. We have structured the program in this way to avoid students having to retake assessments if more than one of their instructors is participating in the pilot.

Before the Semester

Quest for Success materials will be available to students before the start of the semester. Distance Education staff has created an announcement within Canvas informing your students of the pilot. This announcement will be pushed out to students through their RCCD email accounts. We have also created the attached letter that you may modify and email your students. This information may be sent out as part of welcoming email that you might normally send to your online students. We will insert a Front Page in your Canvas course that also explains Quest for Success and indicates a due date for Quest on August 31. **You should add other elements to the Front Page (such as your course name and a welcome note tailored to your students), but we ask that you keep the Quest for Success information at the top of the page until August 31.**

Quest for Success Components

SmarterMeasure

The first module in Quest for Success starts with an overview of the SmarterMeasure self-assessment and provides students directions for taking the assessment. SmarterMeasure gauges student readiness for self-regulated learning, competency based education, basic math skills, writing skills, and knowledge of technical terminology. Altogether there are seven components of SmarterMeasure:

- Individual Attributes – motivation, procrastination, willingness to ask for help, etc.
- Life Factors – Availability of time, support from family and employers, finances, etc.
- Learning styles – Based on the multiple intelligences model
- Technical Competency – Skills with using technology
- Technical Knowledge – Knowledge of technology terms
- On-screen Reading Rate and Recall
- Typing Speed and Accuracy

After taking the SmarterMeasure self-assessment, students will receive a score report and a guide to interpreting their scores. Explanatory text is provided for each item scored in SmarterMeasure and includes links to additional resources for remediation and support (see attached report). Students need to download this report and save a copy of it. Download instructions are in the module and are also at this link in case students contact you for assistance. If a student has more than one instructor participating in the pilot, they will have the ability to upload a copy of their report to each instructor. Receiving a copy of this report will allow you to be aware of students' strengths and areas where students may need more support at the very beginning of the semester.

Online Readiness Modules

Once the SmarterMeasure assessment is complete, students will complete an additional three modules that instruct them on what to expect in an online course. Each module has material presented in multi-media, text, and audio formats so that students can choose which format best suits their learning style. At the end of each module students will be assigned a quiz based on the material presented. Students will only be allowed to proceed to the next module when they earn a perfect score in the previous module. They will be allowed to retake the quiz as often as necessary. When they have completed all of the modules, your students are asked to submit their scores and they will be automatically added to your gradebook. These scores will not count toward the students' grades, so if you wish to make them part of their grade, you will need to create a new assignment and award point values as you see fit. We ask that you do not delete the column that is automatically entered, as students will attach their SmarterMeasure report in that column. This will provide you valuable information about your students' readiness.

If you care to see the Quest for Success course materials, you may log in as a demo student, using this URL and password: https://rccd.instructure.com/courses/19650 user and password are both questtest.

End of the Semester

We would like to see if participating in Quest for Success helps students succeed in their online courses. At the end of the semester, we would like to collect information on students in your course. We would like to have their student ID and to know whether they completed the Quest for Success orientation. We would also like to collect their final grade in your course.

Thank you again for agreeing to be part of this pilot. We are hoping at some point to move this beyond the pilot stage and include it in part of the onboarding process for all students, and this pilot is enabling us to learn how to put such a project in place. Please contact us if you need additional assistance or have questions.

-The Distance Education Team

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Welcome to My Course!

I am happy to have you in my course this semester. It is my wish to make this semester enjoyable and successful for you