Surpassing institution’s adoption goals

Malayan Colleges Laguna (MCL) experienced a break out year in 2015 by offering a record breaking number of courses to its growing student body on Blackboard Learn™.

Within a year, the technological adoption rate surpassed the institution’s anticipated numbers of course adoption; in tandem, MCL’s leadership envisioned developing the institution’s blended learning capacities by further incentivizing its talented faculty to develop high quality courses.

MCL has foregrounded its strategic mission making from the top with a ground up approach that draws upon the creativity and expertise of its professors and instructors. Out of this effort, the Blackboard Course Kernels emerged. This initiative has evolved into a formidable teaching and learning program.
Harnessing Institutional Talents within MCL

Blackboard Course Kernels invites faculty members to hone their craft of digital learning by using the features of Blackboard Learn, as well as the digital plug-ins that Blackboard supports. Participating faculty members reinvigorate content and activities for the 21st century learner by integrating big ideas with pedagogical strategies and selective collaborative tools. This momentum has resulted in the production of a series of innovative videos that “chunk” disciplinary rigor along with the demands of specific industries in relevant synthesis for the Filipino learner and future professional.

Creating partnerships between experts

MCL’s learning design strategy has created transdisciplinary partnerships between experts. For example, the physics professors have created outstanding simulations with the support of faculty and students from the Computer Science, Digital Arts and Design, Multimedia and Broadcasting Programs.

Actualising principles of immersion and approximation as a means to mastery, a faculty member from the Tourism Department has produced a bartending skills training series, now regularly accessed by MCL’s Hotel and Restaurant Management students. Additional materials created within the Tourism Department use 2D animation to emphasise legal policies and procedures that future professionals must recognise and administer as part of their civic responsibility.

Chief Mate Dennis Dumoran, a faculty member from the College of Maritime Education and Training, recognised that a transportation course featuring fundamentals had become “bulky” after merging curriculum due to changing government policies. Determined to address this teaching challenge, Instructor Dumoran brought structure and activity to his recent teaching notes and built a Blackboard Course Kernel framework, now accessible to his current and future colleagues.

Using aptitude and flair from within, faculty members from all five of MCL’s colleges have contributed to a range of institutionally distinctive learning opportunities featured throughout the 23 academic programs. In addition, several participating faculties have produced scholarship that addresses the confluence of learning design interventions and disciplinary advancement.

“Course Kernels’ has opened the doors of opportunity for faculty and students to collaborate in designing and creating course materials and utilizing tools for courses to come alive.

We see great promise in this collaborative approach as students are becoming more engaged in the learning process. We see evidence of sharper communication skills, creativity and innovativeness. Collaborative learning and discovery has made their educational journey not only enjoyable but effective towards the realization of their learning outcomes, both at the course and program levels.”

Dennis H. Tablante, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Malayan Colleges Laguna
Building the Community

Drawing upon widely endorsed scholarship that recognises how learners themselves should be considered as valuable stakeholders, the administrators of Blackboard Course Kernels have created a student internship program. Interested learners can create animation content as they participate in a feedback loop within the Course Kernel process. Such incorporation promotes lifelong learning practices and has encouraged more vibrant teacher/student relationships within the MCL community.

MCL plans to further bolster its blended learning success by adopting Collaborate in 2017. Slated fully online courses include a Chemistry course for Engineering students and a Communications course for Multimedia and Broadcasting students.

“Blackboard Learn has opened opportunities for us to redefine the teaching and learning processes at MCL. It enabled our faculty to develop, design, and integrate digital learning activities in their classes allowing them to target and achieve higher order thinking skills which were never possible before. We’ll definitely explore other technology tools of Blackboard to make learning at MCL more efficient and fun.”

Abigail Joy D. Rodelas, Director of Learning Environments and Innovations, Malayan Colleges Laguna

“We are super excited to incorporate Collaborate and plan to use it not only for academic courses but also alumni review sessions for board exam preparation. We also intend to offer trainings for faculty members as well as free courses for prospective students. Blackboard Learn has become an important part of the delivery of instruction at MCL. As we progress in designing more effective learning resources, we envision that Collaborate, too, will be instrumental in helping students attain outcomes.”

Sir Dodjie S. Maestrecampo, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Malayan Colleges Laguna
Innovating Outcomes Based Education in the Philippines

To maximise its programmatic continuity and academic achievement, MCL has embarked on Outcomes Based Education (OBE). Currently, its model utilises the Goals Framework within Blackboard Learn as a way to align sets of goals that integrate accreditation standards, disciplinary and industry related learning outcomes, as well as attributes of ethics.

Committed to organizational transparency regarding learning outcomes and objectives, MCL plans to roll out the Performance Dashboard in conjunction with Blackboard Analytics to make the most of institutional evaluation of course effectiveness and learner mastery. Administrators that view such architecture will further empower academic leadership to drive necessary curricular changes to maximise the effectiveness of this up and coming institution.

“MCL embarks on a mission to provide a learning environment that transforms its students into globally competitive professionals. This mission statement forces us to seriously consider the many factors that allow this transformation. Though not easy, we believe it is possible and realise it must first start from within us: the administration, faculty, and staff. We understand that you cannot give what you don’t have. Abiding by this principle, the administration fully supports the development of its faculty and staff so they become confident facilitators of learning.

Dennis H. Tablante, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Malayan Colleges Laguna

“MCL’s vision is to become a global steeple of excellence. In line with this vision it aims, among other things, is to implement learner-centered outcomes-based education to its full promise and to harness digital education to its full potential. The attainment of student outcomes, which are keyed to international benchmarks, is our organizing principle. Digital learning, we realize, can be a very powerful tool to attain those outcomes.”

Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, President and Chief Executive Officer, Malayan Colleges Laguna