



Upcoming Events



ePortfolio Day of Planning, August 13, 2009, San Jose, CA

As a follow-up to the Day of Dialogue (February 2009) this day focuses on practical strategic planning for ePortfolios. The sessions will combine presentations from experts with experience in ePortfolios, small group discussions identifying issues and strategies for effective ePortfolio planning and implementation, and tools for participants to develop institutional and/or personal plans for ePortfolios. This event precedes the MERLOT International Conference. Registration opening soon. For more information see <http://conference.csuprojects.org/eportfolios>.



The MERLOT International Conference, August 13 -16 in San Jose

The MIC09 conference theme is Teaching and Learning in a Networked World. See more information at the website <http://conference.merlot.org/2009/>.

In the News

San Francisco State Recognition: Maggie Beers, SFSU, has been invited to participate in the AAC&U "Fresh Air" meeting in Washington DC to discuss "how portfolios can be better used to facilitate student learning and assessment of such learning in a more manageable manner across campuses, technology platforms, and approaches to portfolios." Graduate Daniel DeFoe, also invited, will speak from the student's perspective of how ePortfolios have changed the learning experience. [SFSU is a Leadership Campus](#) in the VALUE Initiative with AAC&U.

DIVERSE: Issues In Higher Education: Education Experts Offer Alternatives to College Rankings.

May 19, 2009 This short article by Charles Dervarics on College Rankings mentioned alternatives & outcomes: ePortfolios, LEAP, and Bologna Process.

AAC&U Winter 2009, Vol. 11, No. 1 has great articles (some free) re: Learning Outcomes & ePortfolios. "This issue focuses on AAC&U's VALUE project and provides an overview of new assessment approaches it is helping campuses develop, including the application of rubrics assessing a broad set of important learning outcomes using examples of student work completed over time in an e-portfolio." http://www.aacu.org/peerreview/pr-wi09/pr-wi09_index.cfm. Of special interest: *The Benefits of E-portfolios for Students and Faculty in Their Own Words* http://www.aacu.org/peerreview/pr-wi09/pr-wi09_benefits.cfm

NPR – Talk of the Nation: April 14th Show Phyllis Safman, assistant commissioner for academic affairs at the Utah System of Higher Education, and Gary Rhoades, general secretary for the American Association of University Professors and a Professor of Higher Education at the University of Arizona, examine whether or not education "tuning" is better, or just different. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=103095104>

Important Links

- <http://teachingcommons.cdl.edu/eportfolio/> a community of members – CSU faculty, staff, administrators – that share a common interest in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning through the use of ePortfolios.
- <http://eportfolio.merlot.org/> Add your favorite ePortfolio websites into MERLOT at www.merlot.org. Check out the new resources that have been added.
- <http://teachingcommons.cdl.edu/eportfolio/resources/eportdodgrid.html> See the PPT presentations from the Feb. 25, 2009 ePortfolio Day of Dialogue.

Resources

Many institutions have started ePortfolio award programs, such as Northern Illinois, Warwick UK, Clemson and others. See <http://teachingcommons.cdl.edu/eportfolio/resources/index.html> at the bottom of the page for award program links.



In fall 2008 CSUMB implemented the open-source tool Mahara to support the need for student interactivity, formative student outcomes development, student ownership of learning, and assessment (see <http://mahara.org>). CSUMB has investigated other platforms that also provide assessment tools to provide depth and breadth to the overarching ePortfolio RFP process. Mahara was chosen as a starting point for faculty and students to pilot and provide feedback in the teaching and learning context.

Mahara is currently being used by multiple programs, courses, and individuals across the disciplines with overall success. Understanding that one platform will not meet all needs has enabled an emerging discussion on pedagogies, best practices, and functional requirements that encompass university-wide criteria, including assessment. Student and faculty responses from across the disciplines have been largely positive towards Mahara, with caveats to the areas that require further development and documentation of the tool, and deeper integration into the curricular space.

With the student and faculty feedback in hand, CSUMB is continuing to investigate Mahara as a teaching and learning tool that can be integrated into the current and future learning space. Significant attention is being placed on end-user usability and accessibility, development needs, sustainability, and portability. For more information contact Marc Oehlman at Marc.Oehlman@csumb.edu.