Are You Ready for Online Learning?

Building a Self-paced Student Readiness Tool Collaboratively

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Who are we?

- **Carlos Guevara**, Director, EdTech & CTL, Hostos
- **Kate Lyons**, Communities of Practice Coordinator, Hostos
- **Mark Lennerton**, Director, CTLT, BCC
- **Albert Robinson**, Assistant Director, CTLT, BCC
- **Olena Zhadko**, Director, Online Education, Lehman College
- **Steve Castellano**, Online Learning Technology Specialist, Lehman College
- **Helen Keier**, Manager of Support Services, John Jay
Agenda

- What is the “Are You Ready?” Course
- Why is it needed?
- Unification of efforts
- Benefits & Development Approach
- Status at Hostos, BCC, Lehman & John Jay
- Next steps
- Questions?
About Hostos

- One of 7 CUNY Community Colleges
- 7,148 students (4,923 FTEs)
- 54.9 % FT, 66.2 % Female
- 58.9 % Hispanic, 22.2 % Black
- 81 % < 30 yrs. Old
- Average age: 24.9
Question

❖ How do you know students are ready to take an online course?
❖ What do you currently do to support students who want to take an online course?
What is it?

❖ An online self-paced student readiness tool to prepare students for the online learning environment
❖ A Blackboard course that covers:
  ❖ Online learning
  ❖ Basic technology proficiency including Blackboard
  ❖ Sources of campus support
  ❖ Time management & tech literacy
  ❖ Digital and web-based learning tools
What is it?

- Developed for different learning preferences
- Lessons are a combination of text, video, and testing
- Students acquire a hands-on understanding of Blackboard course navigation and online test-taking in the process
- Students learn about netiquette in the online learning environment, academic integrity and soft skills
- Universal design approach
- Levels of coverage/scaffolding through adaptive release
What is it?

❖ Both an assessment of readiness for online learning and an introduction to online learning at CUNY
❖ Portal directing students and instructors to various online and campus resources = “Bringing the horse to water”
❖ A consensus of apparently disparate topics that are required for success in online learning
Why is it needed?

- Ensure students are ready for online courses
- Tech literacy vs. tech consumer
- Growing online population/ growing institutional demand
- Standardize online programs by all using the same online readiness module (Digital CUNY and beyond)
Influenced by

- Research from the Hostos Online Learning Assessment (HOLA) committee about student perceptions of online learning
- Readiness courses and assessments by other colleges and organizations
- Existing online support for students and faculty at the different CUNY campuses
- Experiences from developers and instructors of hybrid and asynchronous, and web-enhanced courses at Hostos Community College
Participants

Brooklyn College and Hunter College are exploring the possibility to participate
Unification of Efforts

- Standardization
- Reduce duplication of efforts
- Campus-neutral application
- Increase access to experts and their knowledge
- Access to more data for continuous improvement
Benefits & Development Approach

❖ Simple course copy from the master course
❖ Campus specific support and other information through modules
❖ Potential for cross-campus research
❖ A collaborative approach of the crystal clear agile framework
  ❖ Focus on end user feedback
  ❖ Collaborative development process
  ❖ Adaptive cycle
Results at Hostos

Are You Ready Course

Enrolled  Completed Self-assessment  Completed Course

1.0: 677 373 142
2.0: 590 591 324
3.0: 551 324 331
4.0: 510 331 286
5.0: 477 320 130
6.0: 371 371 142
Rate this assessment survey:
The videos were useful in helping to convey content.
Results at Hostos

Rate this assessment survey:
This presented me with the information I need to be proficient in an online course.
Results at Hostos

- Faculty participation and enforcement is critical.
- Instructions on how the assessment works needs to be constantly reinforced.
- Student who retook quizzes admit they “rushed,” or “didn’t pay attention.”
- Participation from advisement offices (coaches, advisors) is important for a widely adoption of this tool.
- Amount of student technical support with basic technology and Blackboard has decreased
Next Steps

- Assessment at each campus
- Cross-campus research study
  - Initial questions are being developed
- Reach out to additional CUNY campuses
- Continued improvements to the tool - both content and technology
- Open to share beyond CUNY
Questions?

Carlos Guevara  
Director, Educational Technology & Center for Teaching and Learning  
cguevara@hostos.cuny.edu