

Community College Relies on Online Learning Center as a Powerful Supplement to Traditional Learning

Moraine Valley Community College is one of the nation's premier two-year institutions of higher learning and the second largest community college in the state of Illinois. Students of the school's Department of Design, Drafting and CAD depend on faculty for instruction on state-of-the-art 2D and 3D technologies that will enable them to succeed in their chosen fields, including general design, architecture, mechanical design, civil engineering and mapping, and visualization.

The college relies on CADLearning by 4D Technologies to enhance its traditional teaching methods, leveraging the company's CAD expertise and tools to provide its students with superior training in and outside of the classroom.

Challenge

Each semester, nearly 150 students enroll in the school's twelve design, drafting and CAD courses. They are taught a robust roster of continually evolving software that helps visualize, simulate, and analyze their designs.

Professors and instructors depended on a traditional lecture format to present and demo the complex software. Once the students left the classroom, they were on their own to practice and use the skills they were shown in class.

"We needed a way to vary the learning experience and to make it available anytime, anywhere," said J.C. Malitzke, MVCC's department chair of Computer Integrated Technologies and a professor of mechanical design, drafting and CAD. "We needed a supplement to our curriculum structure, something that was no cost to our students."

The CADLearning Online Learning Center Solution

The college chose a full-featured online learning center and software tutorials provided by CADlearning.com of 4D Technologies. The site (<http://mvcc.cadlearning.com/>) is fully hosted and managed by 4D Technologies, yet provides MVCC with complete administration and customization rights.

"We use our CADLearning site in the classroom as a different way of presenting to our students, essentially providing them with expert guest lecturers," said Malitske. "Then we take it to the next level, allowing students to log on and continue learning no matter where they are... really anywhere in the world and whenever they need it." MVCC chose video tutorials from 4D Technologies to teach specialized techniques that meet the needs of its students, including instruction on Autodesk's AutoCAD, AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD Map, Inventor, Revit, Civil 3D, VIZ, and 3ds Max design software.

"Our CADLearning site gives us concise, orderly presentations that are sometimes better than what our faculty could provide," said Malitske. "Our instructors often depend on the video tutorials to teach new technologies, especially 3D, such as Inventor software."



Learning Continued Outside the Classroom

“One of the best parts about CADLearning as a learning tool is that students can receive instruction in the classroom, either from us or from the tutorial videos, and can then go home and spend more time on the parts they need to better understand,” said Malitske. “Each student can pick and choose the pieces they need more time to learn, and they can access it wherever they are and when they want it.”

Branded Interface

“The web site is streamlined for our students and it looks like Moraine Valley Community College, which is really nice,” said Malitske. “It’s an extension of our curriculum and a tool our students can depend on.”



Teacher Training

Students aren’t the only ones who benefit from the MVCC Online Learning Center. Faculty uses the site to train new, guest and temporary teachers joining the department.

“Our CADLearning site is also a great tool to show other teachers how to use technology as an effective teaching aid,” said Malitske. “We often rely on it to train our guest instructors and those coming in to teach for the summer. It shows them the latest technologies in our field.”

Authorized Autodesk Training Center

MVCC is an Authorized Autodesk Training Center (ATC), officially recognized by Autodesk as a provider of the highest quality training on Autodesk products and services. The global ATC network is carefully selected and monitored by Autodesk, and is charged with providing training and instruction to a full range of Autodesk users, from beginners to experts.

“The 4D tutorials provide us with great tools for providing the highest quality training that Autodesk stands behind,” said Malitske.

Next Steps

“Utilization is our number one goal,” Malitske said. “This is an excellent tool and we’d love to see more students, a more diverse set of students, making use of it for their own needs. Once we get more and more students to use the tool, we’ll set our sights on customizing the site with our own content. But, for now, the content provided by 4D completely meets our needs.”