

In This Issue

New Leadership
VTAC Support Update
Semester Reminders
OTC Extended
New Location
Topic Type in Discussions
D2L Updates
Your Opinion Counts

How'd We Do?

Please [take our survey](#) to let us know what you think of our newsletter.

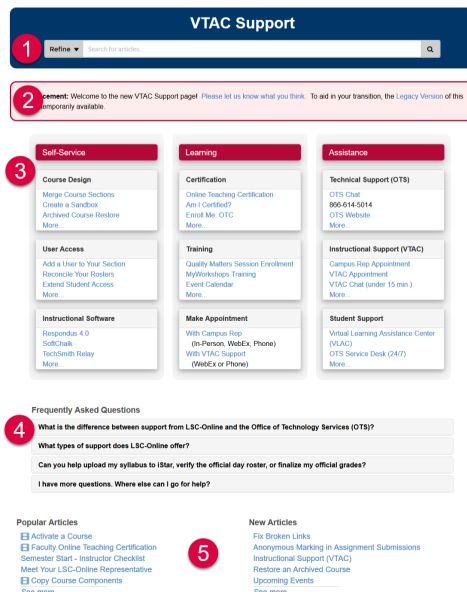
New Leadership at LSC-Online

Please join us in welcoming the new Associate Vice Chancellor for LSC-Online, Dr. Robert Greene. Prior to joining Lone Star College, he served as Academic Dean of Online for Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). FSCJ is a multicampus community college with a large online presence in Florida. While at FSCJ, Dr. Greene served in several other roles, including Instructional Program Manager and Professor of Education and Developmental English. Dr. Greene has extensive instructional experience in face-to-face, hybrid, and online environments and has developed curriculum for several online and hybrid courses. He has presented at multiple educational conferences on the topic of faculty development for online teaching and the institutional strategies necessary for online programs to succeed.



Dr. Greene earned his MAT in Integrated Learning with Educational Technology from Jacksonville University and his Ed.D from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida.

VTAC Support Has A New Look



1 Refine: Search the website

2 Message: Welcome to the new VTAC Support page! Please let us know what you think. To aid in our transition, the Legacy Version of this repository is available.

3 Self-Service, Learning, Assistance

4 Frequently Asked Questions

5 Popular Articles, New Articles

The [VTAC Support landing page](#) has been refreshed to make it easier for you to find the resources you need. At the top is a large search bar (1) so you can easily find information on a specific topic. The Announcement Bar (2) shows alerts, outages, and new features supported by LSC-Online.

The tools and options (3) have been organized by category to help you find the type of support you need. For example, chat and appointment options can be found under the Assistance heading. If you don't see the option you are looking for, click the corresponding "More..." link for a complete list. Underneath the tools are some frequently asked questions (4). Finally, a list of popular articles and new articles (5) are located at the bottom of the page to help you keep your finger on the pulse of what is happening on the site. To provide your feedback on the VTAC Support refresh, please [fill out our survey](#).

(Continued on page 3)

End-of-Semester Reminders

You're almost there! There are only a couple of weeks to go before the semester is over. It's time to roll up your sleeves and prepare for your end-of-semester activities. Below are a few useful links:

Faculty Assistance

[Virtual Teaching Assistance Center \(VTAC\)](#)

Student Assistance

[Virtual Learning Assistance Center \(VLAC\)](#)

Need to print your D2L gradebook?

[Export Grades](#) and [Print Grades](#)

Want a paper copy of an exam in D2L?

[Print a Copy of the Final Exam](#)

Have a student with an incomplete?

[Extend Course Access for a Student](#)

Thinking about next term?

[Semester Start - Instructor Checklist](#)

Online Teaching Certification Extended

We have good news for certified faculty who teach online or hybrid courses. The Full Online Teaching Certification no longer expires after 3 years. It is now valid until there is a major LMS change.

Because of this change, the Advanced OTC, which primarily served as a re-certification course, has been discontinued. In the future, LSC-Online will be providing additional trainings for D2L and best practices in teaching online. These trainings will be optional and provided solely for the purpose of your professional development.

Many of you were due to recertify within the next year. Because of a limitation in MyWorkshops, you still might get an email about recertification. You can safely *ignore that email*. For further information about the Online Teaching Certification, please [visit the VTAC website](#).



LSC-Online Has a New Home



Don't worry – all your links and bookmarks are still current! Only the departmental offices of LSC-Online have moved. We are now located on the 6th floor of Building 11 on the LSC-University Park campus. This temporary location has brought with it more space for recording videos. As before, we offer assisted video recording using a [lightboard](#), teleprompter, or green screen. Don't want to travel to LSC-University Park or would rather use self-service facilities? Check out the [Multimedia Services page](#) in VTAC to see what is available at the campus nearest you.

Including videos of yourself (or recordings of your voice) is an excellent way to increase [teaching presence](#) in your online course and helps students connect with you as a person. A simple video introducing yourself and the basics of the course is a great way to get started. So what are you waiting for? Fire up your webcam or visit one of our multimedia facilities today!

Need D2L support? Visit the [Virtual Teaching Assistance Center](#).

Topic Type Setting in Discussions

New Topic

Properties Restrictions Assessment Objectives

New Topic Details

Forum *

Student Discussions Forum [New Forum] ?

Topic Type

☐ Open topic, everyone can access this topic and its contents

☒ Group or section topic, everyone can access this topic but students only see threads from their own group or section

Group or Section Category

Discussions

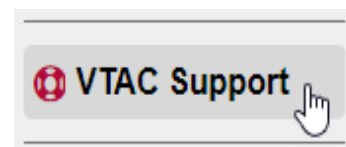
In November, D2L made some changes to the way discussions worked. One of those changes was the addition of the Topic Type setting. With this new setting, instructors can make a discussion topic limited to Groups or Sections. This allows all students to respond to the same topic, but only view and reply to threads from members of their group or section. This change also enables the ability to associate the topic with one grade item, thus assessing each group's discussion using same grade item. Groups must be created to enable the Topic Type setting.

Prior to the update, a topic could be associated with a grade item, but did not restrict groups from seeing and responding to threads from other groups, or each group discussion had to be associated with its own grade item.

VTAC Support Page - cont.

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to the VTAC Support page refresh, we are now offering more phone and WebEx appointment times to help us effectively meet your instructional support needs. VTAC Chat is still offered to provide you with quick instructional support, and, as always, the OTS Service Desk is available 24/7/365 to provide you with technical support. Links to both VTAC and OTS chat are included on the refreshed VTAC Support page.



D2L Updates



The April update for D2L went live on April 25th. The update included several bug fixes however there were no new, major features included. For a list of changes from previous updates as well as other important news items, please review the announcements on your D2L homepage or visit the [Announcements page](#) in VTAC.

Your Opinion Counts

We hope that you are enjoying this issue of our email newsletter, *Digital Digest*. Our goal is to keep you informed and up to date about available online course tools and design practices. Whether you teach a fully online course or merely use D2L to supplement your face-to-face class, we think you'll find some useful tips for teaching at Lone Star College. Topics will include new tools and updates to D2L, online course design best practices, important support information, faculty spotlights, and much more.

Please share your opinions and ideas with us via [our survey](#).

