

TCCTA Technology Seminars

The TCCTA Professional Development Committee will sponsor a number of technology seminars in conjunction with the 59th Annual Convention. The seminars, which will cover many aspects of the use of new technology in the classroom, are designed to provide practical instruction on the latest teaching innovations. All seminars will be held on Friday afternoon, February 24, at the Westin Galleria Hotel. No pre-registration or fees are necessary, but seating may be limited. Please check the convention program upon arrival for meeting sites.

"Just What You Need to Know and Do NOW!" 2:30–3:45

Learn about a dynamic online suite of services and resources. You will come to know *ThomsonNOW* as the most reliable, easy-to-use, personalized, and powerful online solution on the market. The suite offers content, tools, and services to achieve the results you desire—your one-stop-shop for e-resources and e-services.

"Making Connections with the Library of Congress" 2:30–3:45

Join Gail Petri, education resource specialist for the Library of Congress, as she takes teachers on a guided tour of the wealth of resources available on the LC Web site. This presentation will also feature information about Webcasts, videoconferencing, and more—for all educators!

Capitol and Campus

by Beaman Floyd
TCCTA Lobbyist



I enjoyed visiting with faculty from all over Texas during the TCCTA fall conference and am invariably impressed with the level of knowledge and political sophistication of the members of your profession. I also had the pleasure of meeting with Legislative Committee during this time.

The committee believed it would be helpful for our members to have, within easy reach, a brief summary of "talking points" on some key issues facing us—most notably "proportionality," accountability, and recent threats to the Core Curriculum. I thought it was a great idea.

Legislative Committee chair Pat Knight and several members of her group worked with the state office to construct a one-page summary. I advised them to make sure the paper is treated as a "public document," *i.e.*, something we are proud to share with anyone interested in our positions on key issues.

I'm pleased to say, the TCCTA "Talking Points" can be found on page five of this issue of the *Messenger*. This page, as well as the outstanding *Guide to Political Participation*, are also available under "Publications" at www.tccta.org. Please share this information with lawmakers—especially while they are "at home" in the district. Frankly, for all the work we do at the Capitol, it is always preferable for lawmakers to be informed by their own constituents.

I hope also to visit with you at the annual TCCTA convention in Houston. See you there! ☆

"PowerPoint Basics for Your Classes" 2:30–3:45

Maria Meyers, Partners in Education consultant at Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, will demonstrate the basics of *PowerPoint*. Make your lectures come alive by using this easy to learn software. Your visual learners will thank you! (Attendees who have a PC or Mac laptop with *PowerPoint* installed are encouraged to bring it to the session. Other attendees will be able to easily view the demonstration.)

"Acrobat 7 Professional" 2:30–3:45

Tom Dent of Adobe will demonstrate how to create PDF documents from popular desktop applications, plus convert scanned images, books, and Web sites into full searchable Acrobat files. Walk away with a free 30-day trial of the product plus curriculum and training resources. (Attendees who have laptops are encouraged to bring them for "hands-on" training.)

"Using Online Course Management Systems To Enhance Learning in Distance Education" 4:00–5:15

Carol Barbay and Andy Chauhan of Lamar State College—Port Arthur will discuss how to use open source and proprietary course management systems to enhance learning fully online as well as in hybrid distance education activities. They will compare the benefits and costs of using various course management systems in a community college learning environment.

"Stop Plagiarism with Turnitin" 4:00–5:15

Turnitin's comprehensive originality checking tool allows students and instructors the opportunity to examine a student's research and writing practices. With same day response after submission, the student's paper will be returned either to the student or instructor with a color-coded report showing which passages are original works and which passages match identically with posted material on the Internet.

"Adobe Premiere Elements" 4:00–5:15

Movie making for the rest of us! This XP-based product allows you to edit digital video, create DVDs with navigations, mix sound tracks, and prepare streaming media for the Web. Tom Dent of Adobe will demonstrate an easy to use "new" interface that is the model for all future releases of Adobe products. (Attendees who have laptops are encouraged to bring them for "hands-on" training.)

"Implementing Electronic Portfolios to Demonstrate Learning Achievement" 4:00–5:15

Kim Hughes, Manager of System Implementations for TaskStream, will discuss solutions for implementing and managing e-portfolios. Learn how Web-based technology tools simplify the management of competency-based assessment and provide critical data for accreditation.

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