

# Hot Topics in Distance Education – Quality Trumps Hype

The 2013-2014 Distance Education Task Force

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Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

Spring 2014 Plenary Session

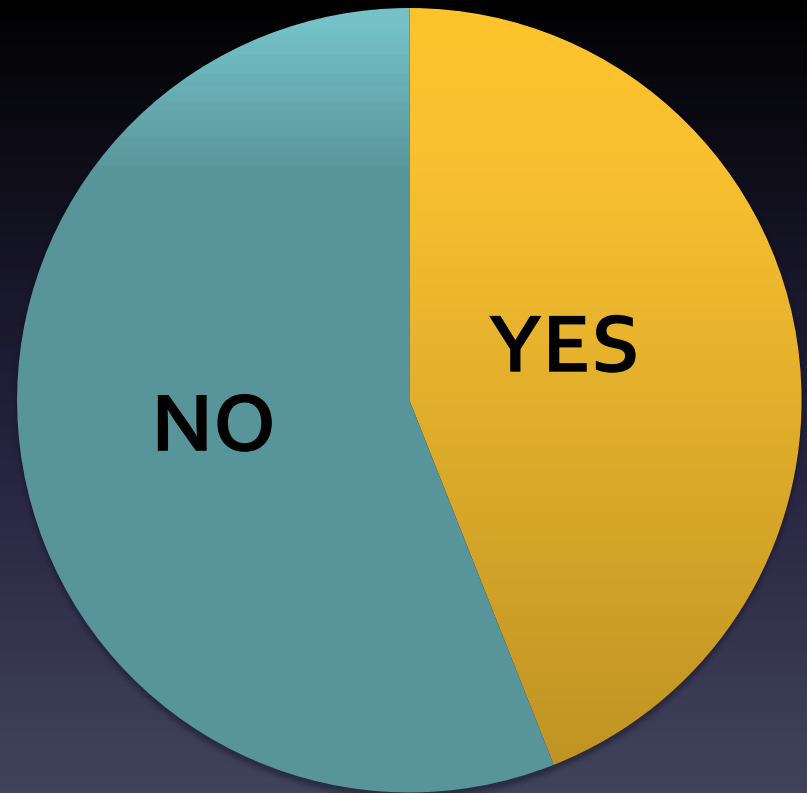
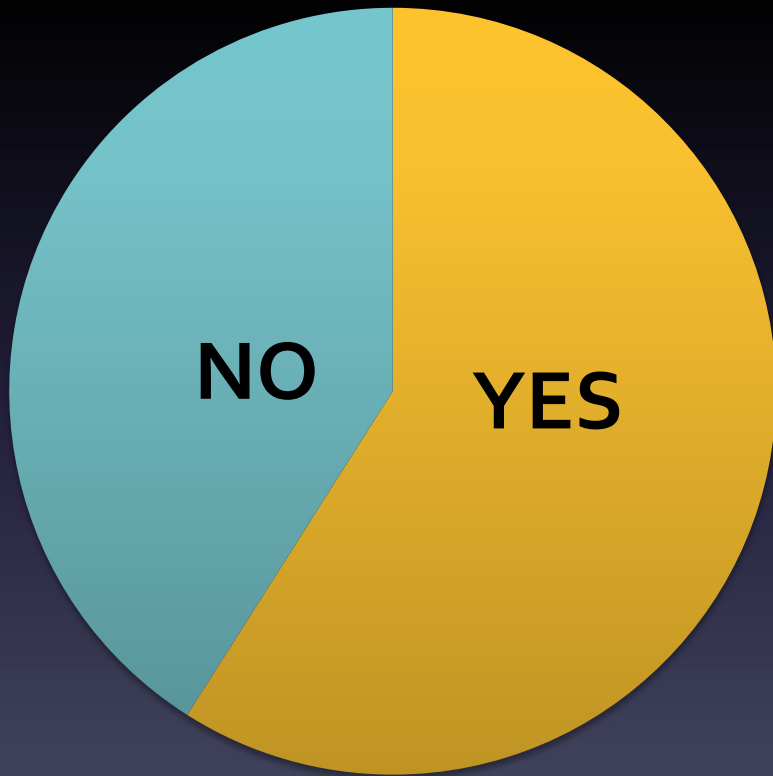
What brings you here?

What would you like to learn?

# Topics to be Addressed

- Accreditation...because that never gets old!
- Faculty Preparation for DE
- Student Preparation for DE
- Using MOOCs for Student Preparation
- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (time permitting)

# Required Faculty Training vs. Formal Student Preparation: *What did our survey reveal?*



Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013



In CCCs, distance learning continues to grow:

- 2005-06: 12.48% of total headcount (unduplicated)
- 2011-12: 26.93% of total headcount (unduplicated)

In the US, over 6 million students took at least one online class last year, and that does not include those who chose to participate in a MOOC

# Quiz Time!

Why are students taking DE courses?

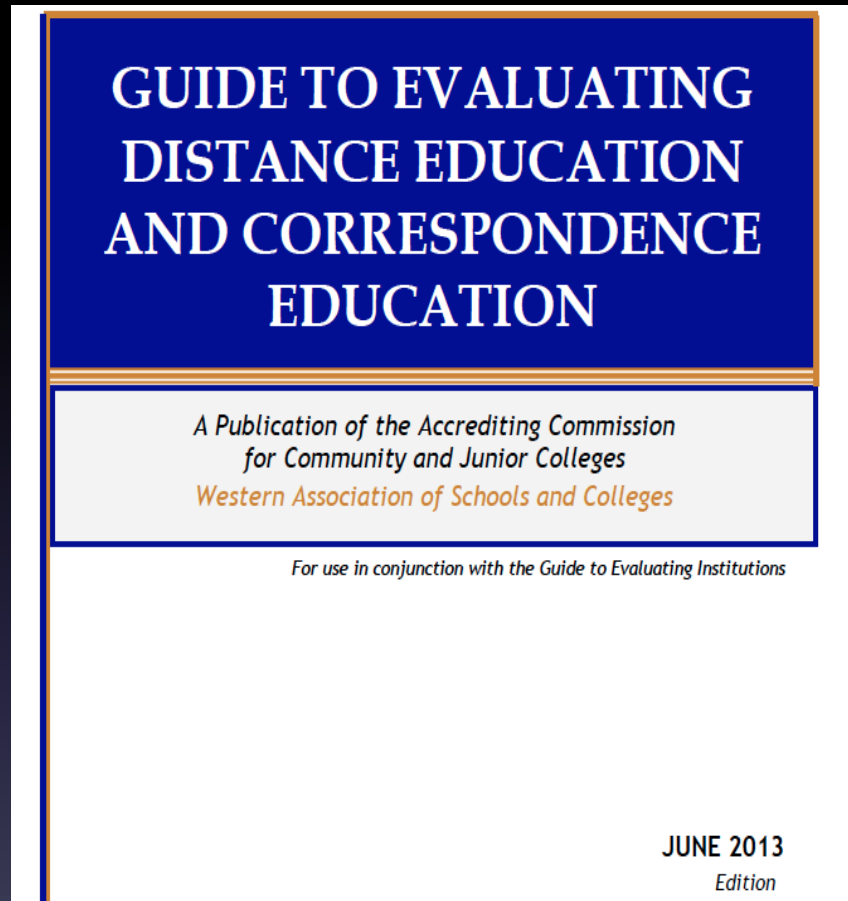
- a) Enjoy learning on computer
- b) Transfer requirements (4-year)
- c) Job skill improvement
- d) Personal interest in subject
- e) Convenient for work schedule
- f) Previous DE success
- g) Associate degree requirements

# Top Reasons for Taking DE Courses\*

- Convenient for work schedule 60.8%
- Associate degree requirements 55.6%
- Transfer requirements (4-year) 53.1%
- Job skill improvement 43.7%
- Personal interest in subject 41.5%
- Enjoy learning on computer 40.0%
- Previous DE success 27.1%

\*From Chancellor's Distance Education Report to BOG, August 2013

# Accreditation Requirements



[http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08Guide\\_to\\_Evaluating\\_DE\\_and\\_CE\\_2013.pdf/](http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08Guide_to_Evaluating_DE_and_CE_2013.pdf/)



# Accreditation Requirements

ACCJC Policy on DE and CE (paraphrased):

Regardless of delivery mode, institutions must demonstrate that all learning opportunities have:

- Equivalent quality
- Accountability
- Focus on student outcomes

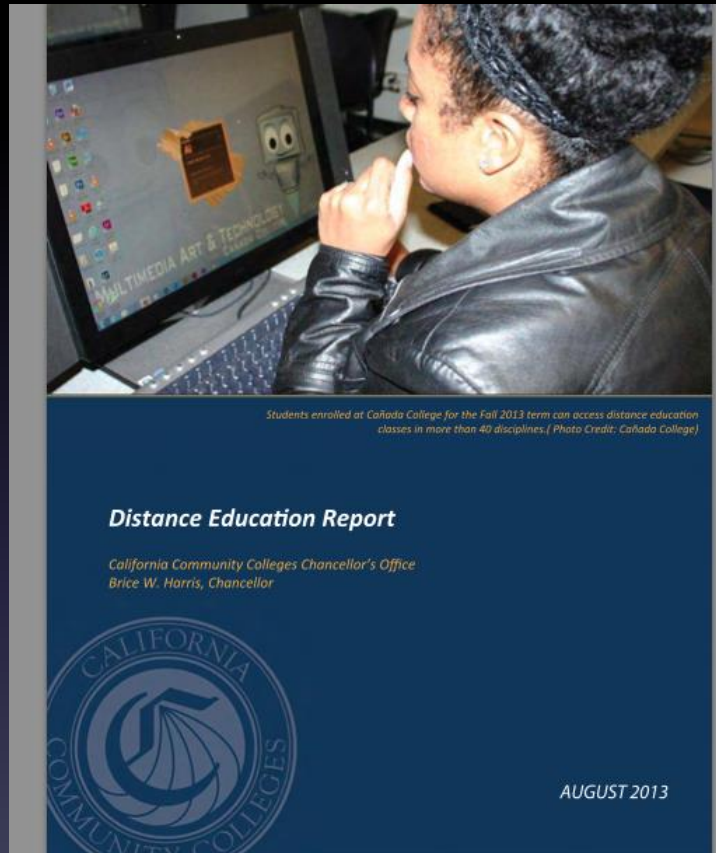
(From *Guide to Evaluating Distance Education and Correspondence Education*, ACCJC, 2013)

# Accreditation and Quality DE

ACCJC wants evidence of (Standard II.A.1. )

- Ensuring high quality DE offerings
- Being comparable of quality with face-to-face offerings
- Assessment of teaching and learning strategies in DE

# How Are We Doing System-wide? Distance Education Report to BOG (August 2013)



[http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/o/reportsTB/REPORT\\_DistanceEducation2013\\_090313.pdf](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/o/reportsTB/REPORT_DistanceEducation2013_090313.pdf)

# Success and Retention Gaps

From the August 2013 CCCCO Report to the BOG on Distance Education:

- Retention (7 year average 2005-06 to 2011-12) :
  - Traditional 84.5% vs. DE 77.4%
  - Gap = -7.1%
- Success (7 year average 2005-06 to 2011-12):
  - Traditional 66.4% vs. DE 55.9%
  - Gap = -10.5%
- 2011-12 gaps are -6.2% and -9%, respectively
- But...it is improving!

# Student Success in DE Courses Is Correlated With...

- Student Preparation
  - Orientation
  - Online success courses
- Faculty Preparation
  - CMS and pedagogy training
  - Pedagogy training emphasizes the importance of faculty/student engagement, active learning

# Senates Need to Lead...

## Remember the 10+1!

### **Title 5 §53200: Academic and Professional Matters**

- (1) Curriculum including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines
- (5) Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success
- (8) Policies for faculty professional development activities

# Faculty Preparation



## Resolution 19.06 S13

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges **survey colleges to determine what local requirements exist for certification of faculty to teach in the distance education modality and communicate those results to the body by Spring 2014.**

Resolution 19.06 S13 "Certification of Faculty to Teach Distance Education Courses," Assigned to the Distance Education Ad Hoc Task Force.

# Accreditation – Hiring and Evaluating DE Faculty

## Standard III.A.1 - Human Resources (Hiring):

- Analysis and dialog on determining **qualifications** for hiring DE faculty
- Appropriate advertising and **selection criteria**

## Standard III.A.1 - Human Resources (Evaluation):

- Faculty **evaluation includes effectiveness in DE instruction/activities**
- Dialogue about **SLO assessment of DE students** and related improvements
- Professional development support to DE faculty



# Accreditation - DE Professional Development for Faculty

## Standard III.A.5.a:

- Evidence of: **professional development programs for DE** personnel, needs assessment, including teaching and learning methodologies in DE

## Standard III.C.b:

- Evidence of: **needs assessment**, kinds of training for DE faculty, **timely** training
- “How does the institution ensure that the training and technical support it provides for faculty, staff and students is **appropriate and effective**? How effective is the training and information provided? How is it **evaluated**.”

# Does faculty professional development in online instruction make a difference?

Yes!

Who says?

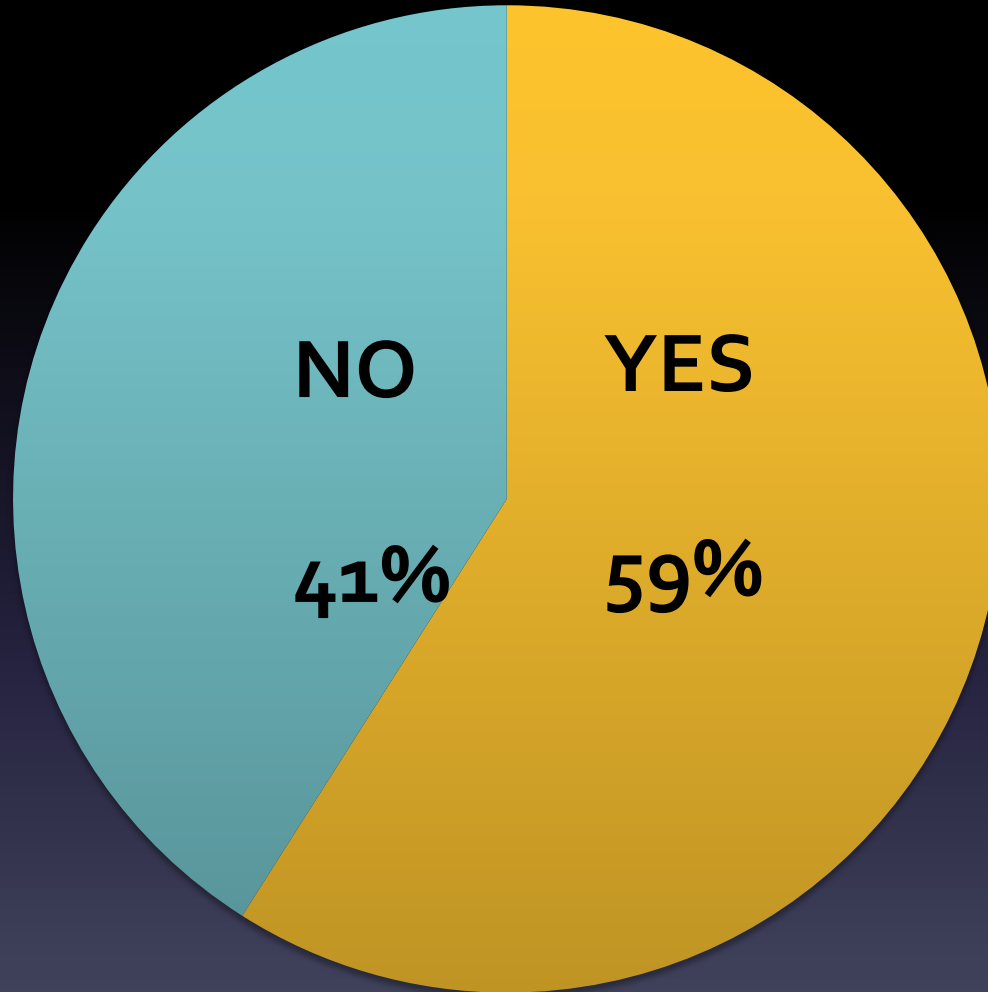
- U.S. Department of Education. “Faculty development is a critical component for ensuring quality in distance education.”

U.S. Department of Education, “Evidence of Quality in Distance Education Programs,” March 2006.

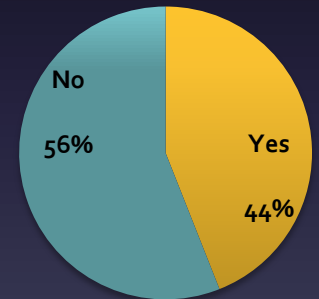
- CCC Chancellor’s Office. “Increased student retention for distance education courses relies heavily on faculty training.”

Chancellor’s Distance Education Report to BOG, August 2013

# Is Faculty Training Required to Teach DE Courses?

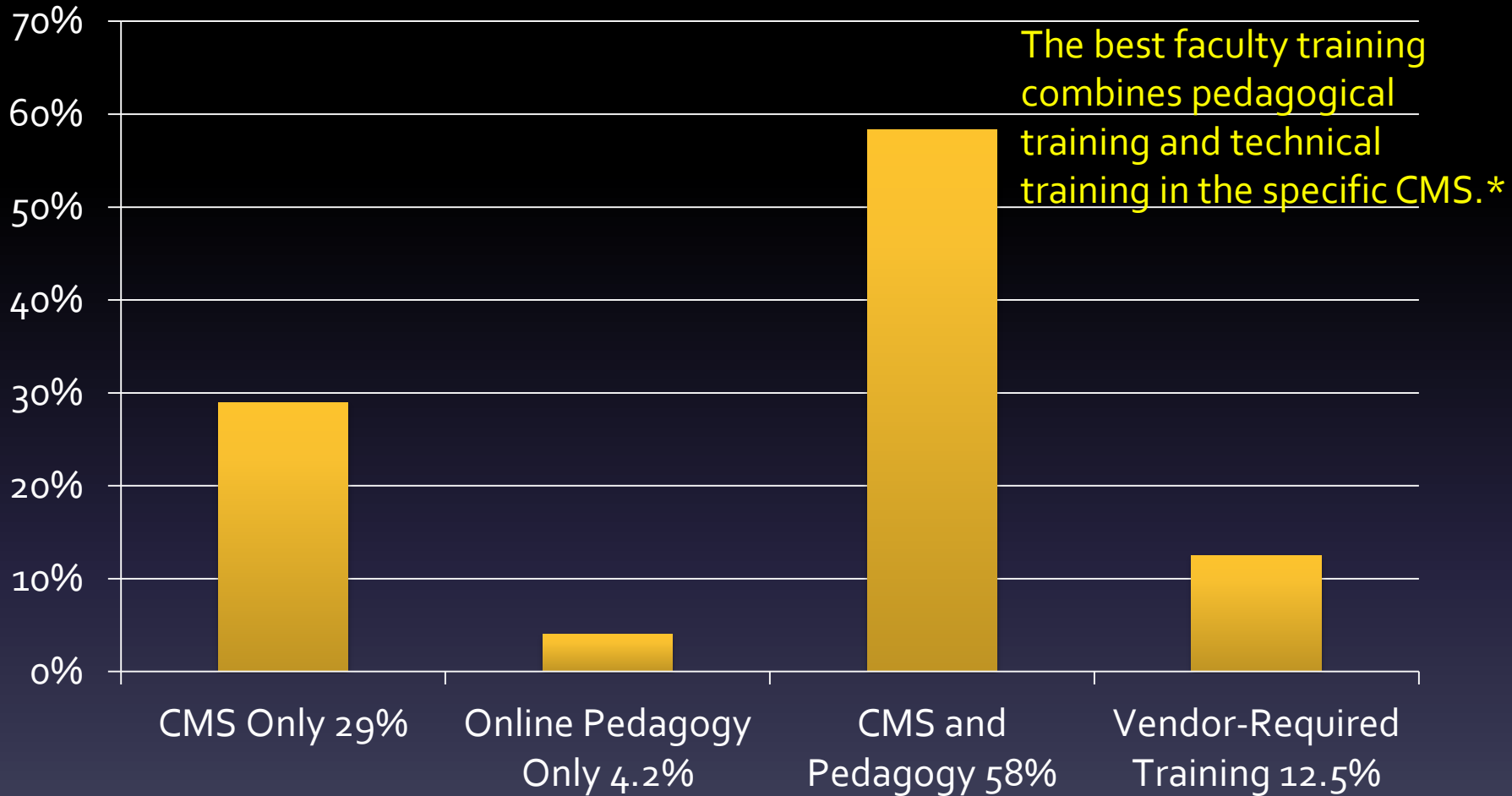


Colleges Offering Formal Student Preparation



Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013

# Required Training

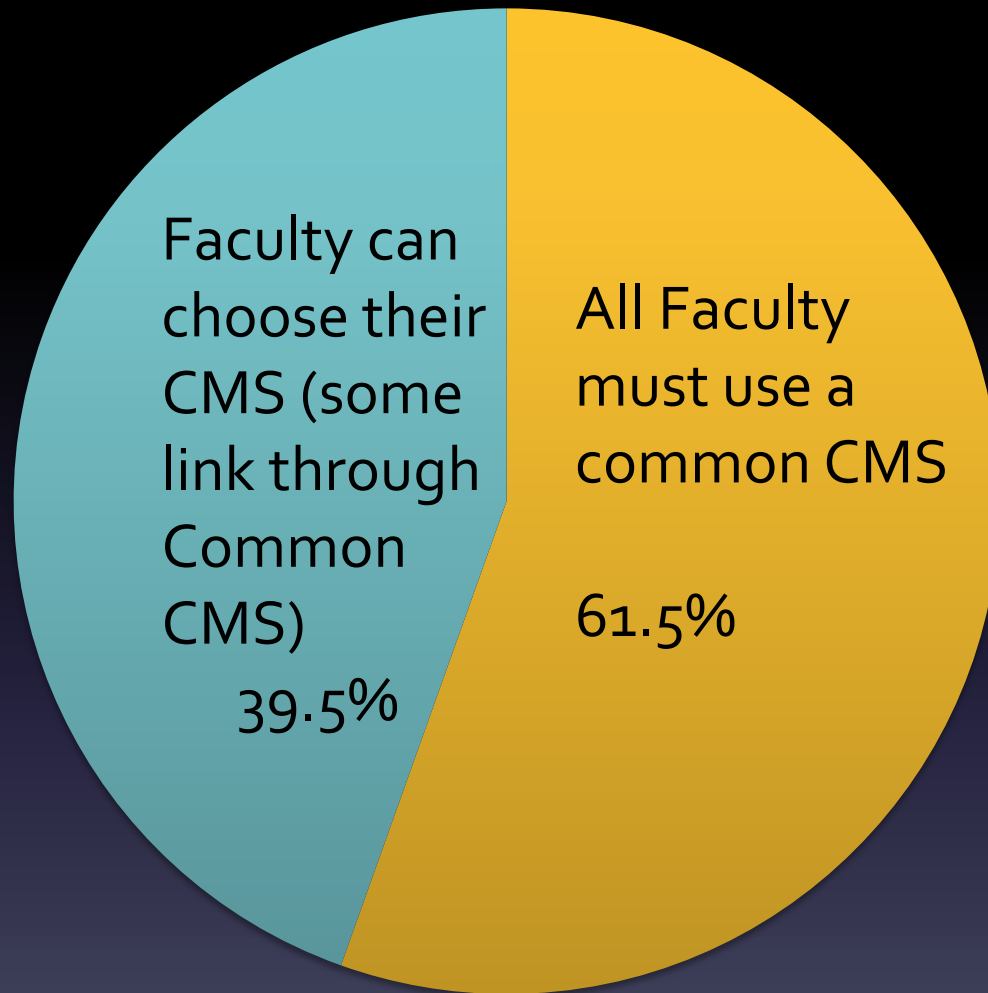


Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013

\*Jon Travis and Grace Rutherford, "Administrative Support of Faculty Preparation and Interactivity in Online Teaching," 2013.

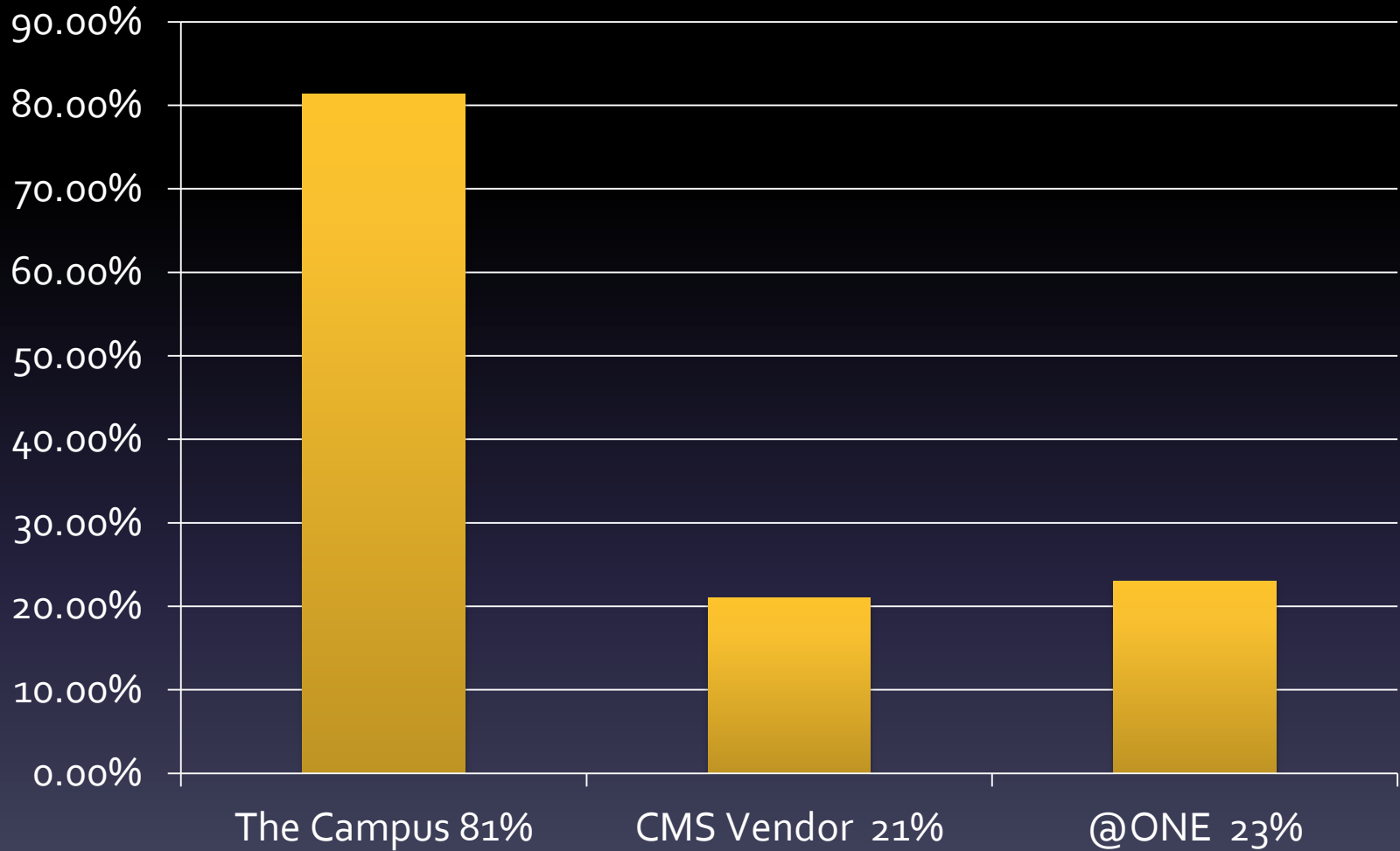
# Course Management System

Only 13% of campuses provide support for all CMSs.



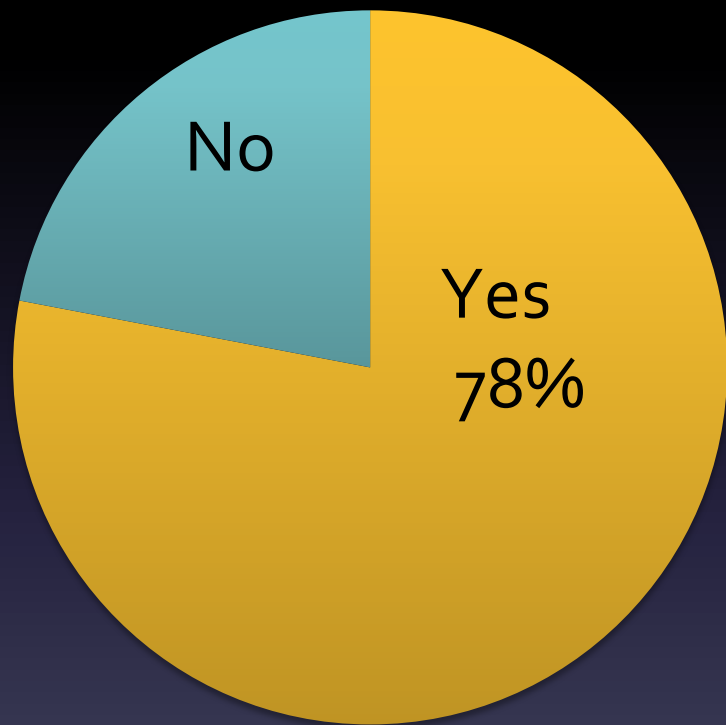
Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013

# Who Conducts DE Faculty Training

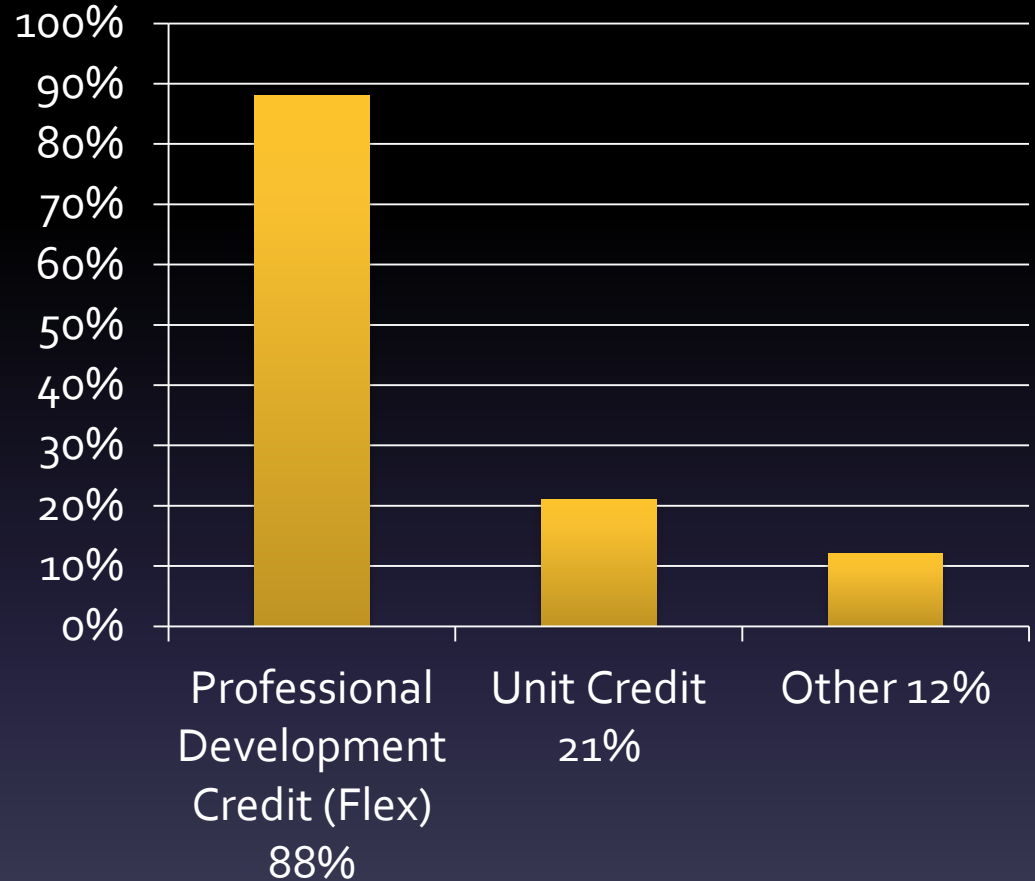


DE Professional Development at the CCCs - ASCCC DE Survey, 2013

## Do faculty earn professional development credit for training?



## What type of credit do faculty earn for online training?

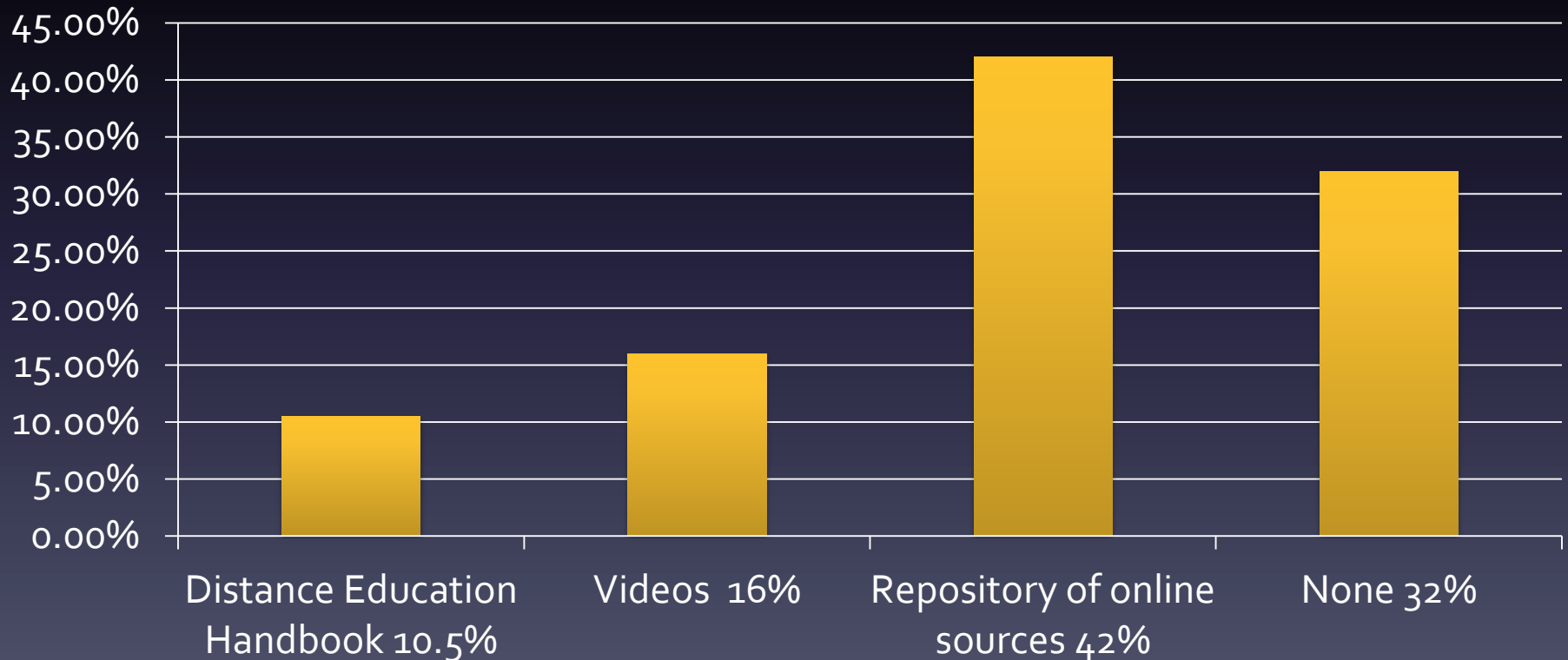


# Is there continued training or upgrade training available?

Yes – 64%

No – 36%

## What other supplemental materials are available to your faculty?





# Accreditation and Quality DE: Student Preparation

ACCJC wants evidence of ( Standard II.A.1.a ):

- Identification of student learning needs
- Determination of student academic and technical skills required for DE (Can needs be effectively addressed through DE alone?)
- Assessment of student educational preparation for DE/CE programs
- Identifying and addressing any achievement gaps between DE and face-to-face

# Senate Resolution – Student Preparation

## Resolution 9.03 S13

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support allowing implementation of appropriate additional preparation in order to enhance student success in online classes or sections; and

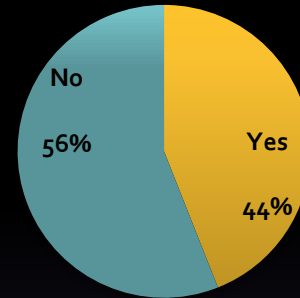
Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges investigate what would be required to permit colleges to implement appropriate conditions of enrollment for distance learning courses, including changes to Title 5 if necessary, and research the efficacy of a required orientation designed for students taking an online class or section and report the results of the study to the body by the Spring 2014 Plenary Session.



ACADEMIC SENATE  
for CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

# ASCCC DE Task Force Survey

## Colleges Offering Formal Student Preparation



- CCCs surveyed about student preparation for online courses and programs;
- More than half (56%) of the CCCs surveyed did not offer formal preparation for first time online students;
- Of those that offered student training, 75% surveyed indicated that the training was *optional*;
- **None** of the CCCs surveyed indicated that the student training was offered through a MOOC.

Survey of CCCs conducted November – December 2013

# Student Preparation

- Student orientations for DE at CCCs have decreased by 16% since 2010, most likely due to budget cuts\*;
- College administrators rank adequate student services for DE students as their greatest challenge\*\*;
- ACCJC expects institutions to assess students' educational preparation for DE programs and to incorporate this assessment into program planning.\*\*\*

\* Chancellor's Distance Education Report to BOG, August 2013

\*\*Instructional Technology Council Annual Survey, 2011

\*\*\*ACCJC Guide to Evaluating DE and Correspondence Education, 2013



# Is Preparing Students For Online Learning an Effective Practice?

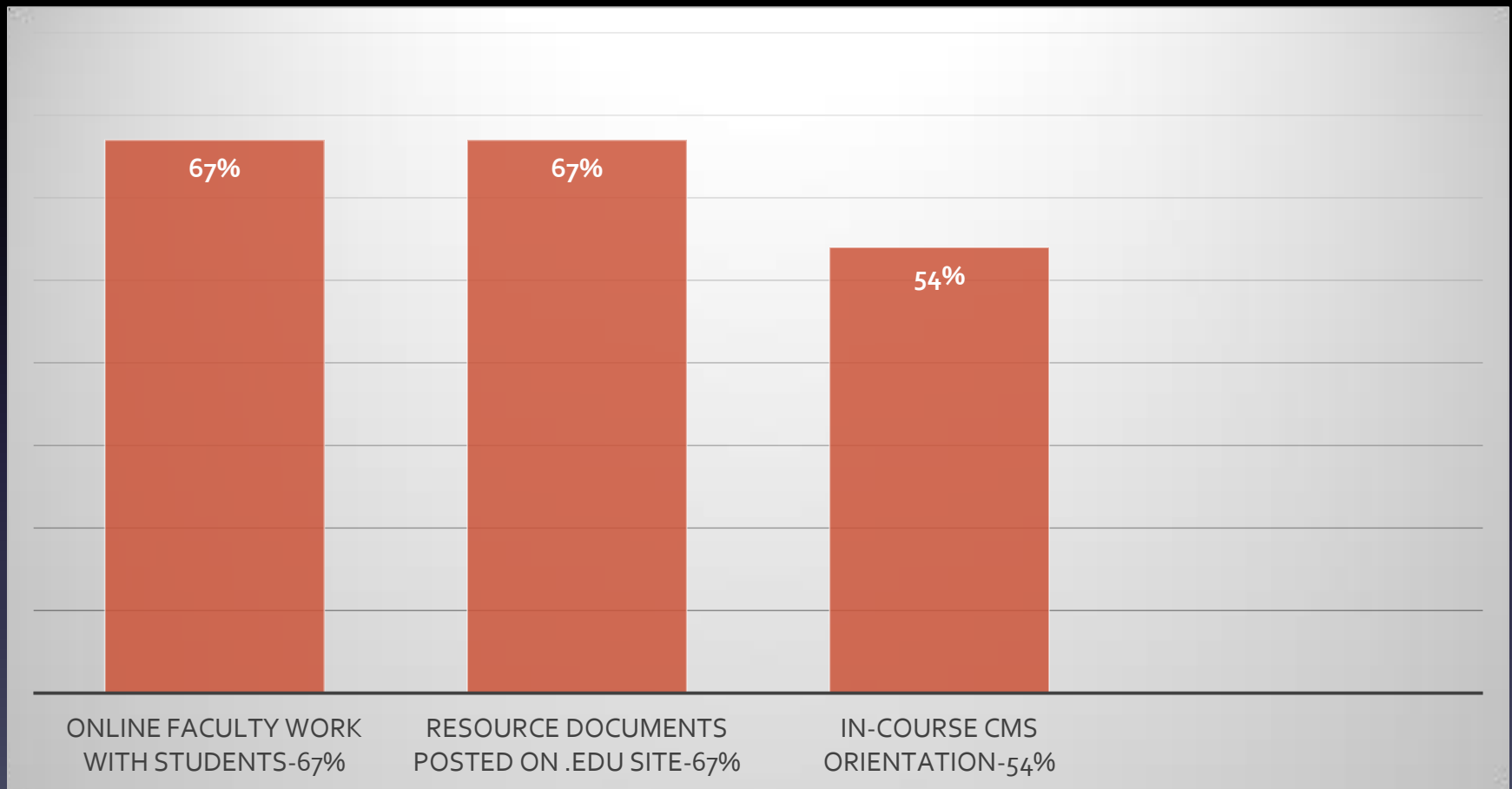
Yes!

Who says?

- Orientation for online students should be available; possibly online, although face-to-face orientations are also helpful
- Orientation should include self-assessment of technical skills and readiness for DE, and **include learning strategies**
- A student success course for online learning improves retention and success
- **Courses focused on study skills for online learning** may also improve online success
- MOOCs may be useful as preparation for taking a course. . .

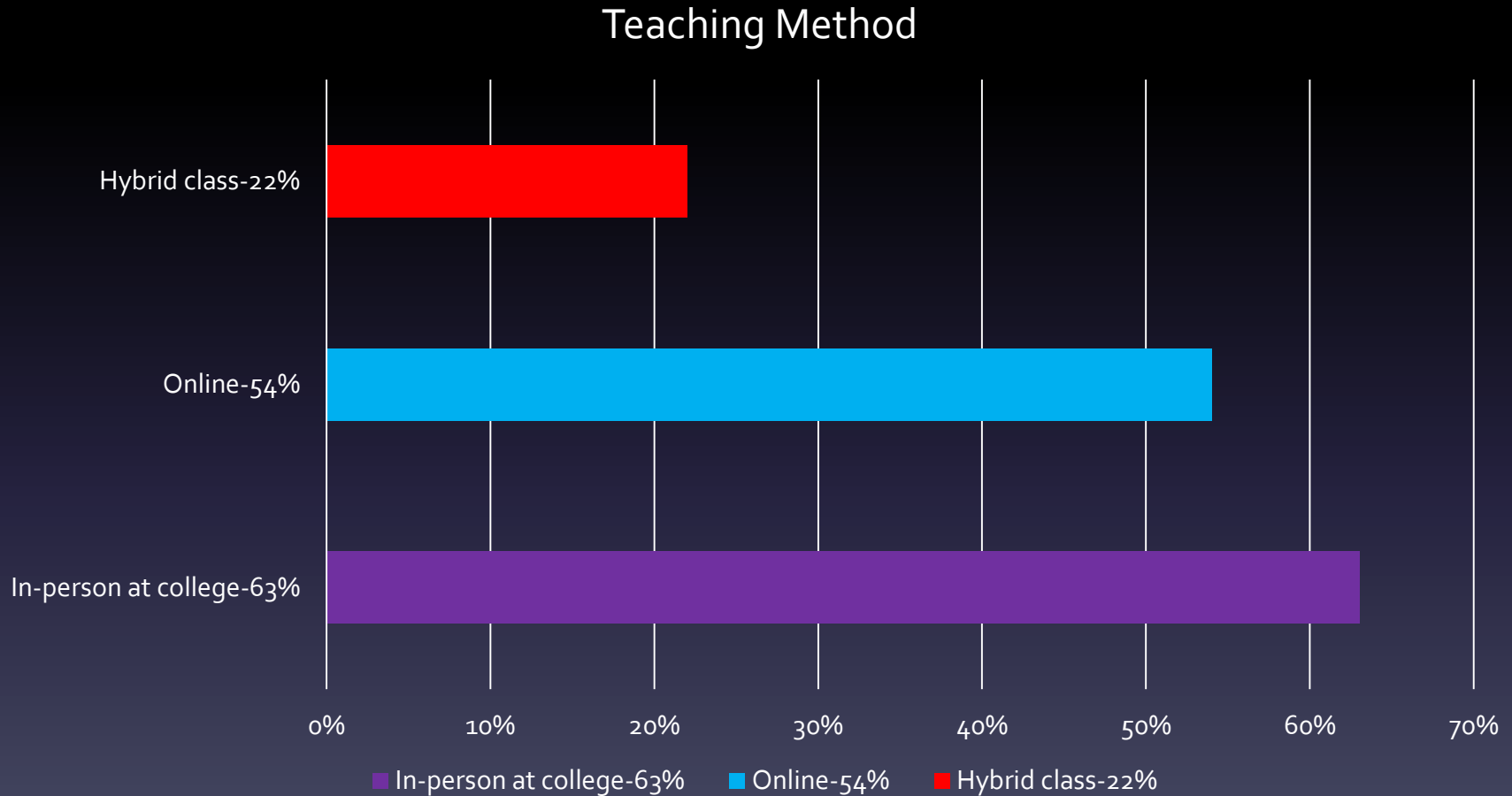


# What Are CCCs Doing to Prepare Students For Online Learning?



Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013

# For CCCs That Offer Formal Student Prep, How Are Students Trained?



Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013

# CCCs' Student Preparation Programs Include:\*

- In-course orientation to the use of the CMS - both face-to-face and online
- Student training on use/navigation of the course shell
- Student training: use of technical support
- Student training: access of student support services
- Student training for online success

\*Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013





# CCCs' Online Service Training Includes\*:

Registration

Counseling DSPS

Assessment and Testing Services

Library

Tutoring

Financial aid

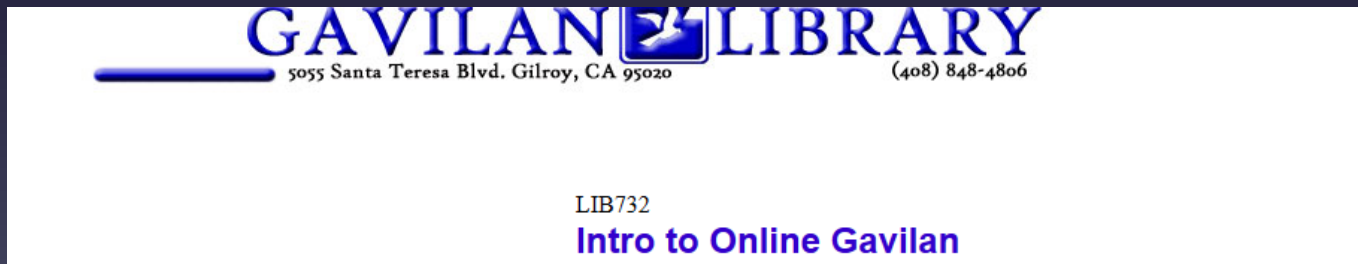
\*Survey of CCCs conducted November-December 2013  
(only for those colleges offering such online service training for students)

# MOOC Training

MOOC training and orientation at

Gavilan College:

LIB 732, Introduction to Gavilan Online.



# MOOCSICLE



- **MOOCSICLE:** Hartnell College. Fall, 2014. Will provide an introduction to online learning for all Administration of Justice students, along with remediation and ongoing student support;
- Orientation will include use of the CMS, navigation of the course shell, use of the course shell, DE student best practices, email etiquette, and how to access and use Hartnell College online student support services.



 Unpublished Site

 HOME

## MOOSICLE: MOOC Student Information Center for Legal Education



### Recent Announcements

#### [Video with information about logging in](#)

Lisa Storm, Apr 02, 2014 11:27 AM

Hello, students! Please begin by watching the video and logging into and using Etudes: [http://www.hartnell.edu/Etudes\\_Student\\_Tutorial/](http://www.hartnell.edu/Etudes_Student_Tutorial/)

Please let me know by private message or email if you have any questions, I am happy to help!



**April 2014**



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Assignments, Tests and Surveys

Discussion and Private Messages

Chat Room

Gradebook

SONO Learning Center

Activity Meter

# Considerations for Local Senates

- What is your senate's role in assuring the quality of distance education?
- Does your college have an orientation/preparation program for DE students?
  - What does it cover?
  - Who oversees it and assesses its effectiveness?
  - How is it delivered?
  - What kind of credit do students earn?
- Does your college encourage or require additional training for DE faculty?
  - Is the training on use of the CMS, for online pedagogy, student support services?
  - What professional development opportunities are provided? Who determines that?
  - What level of preparation is expected? Is it one time or does it need to be "renewed?"
  - What kind of credit to faculty earn? Flex? Unit? Other compensation?
  - What are your local collective bargaining considerations?
- Does your college have a DE Committee?
- Does your college have a DE Handbook? (For students? Faculty? Both?)
- Does your college have a DE Plan that addresses student and faculty preparation?

# Resources and References

- Chancellor's Office Distance Education Report, presented to the Board of Governors, August 2013  
[http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/o/reportsTB/REPORT\\_DistanceEducation2013\\_090313.pdf](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/o/reportsTB/REPORT_DistanceEducation2013_090313.pdf)
- *Ensuring the Appropriate Use of Educational Technology: An Update for Local Academic Senates*, ASCCC Paper adopted Spring 2008, [http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Educational\\_Technology.pdf](http://asccc.org/sites/default/files/Educational_Technology.pdf)
- U.S. Department of Education, "Evidence of Quality in Distance Education Programs," March 2006.  
<http://www.ysu.edu/accreditation/Resources/Accreditation-Evidence-of-Quality-in-DE-Programs.pdf>
- ICAS Statement on Online Education, *Online Education in California Public Higher Education*, July 2013  
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# Resources and References


- *FACULTY-STUDENT INTERACTION COMPONENTS IN ONLINE EDUCATION: WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS ON STUDENT SATISFACTION AND ACADEMIC OUTCOMES?* Sherri L. Restauria, Doctoral Dissertation (2006)  
<http://professoryates.com/seu/Podcasts/Dissertation%20Research/SteveArticles11.12.10B/Restauri-StudentTeacherInteractionDissertation06.pdf>
- *The Faculty-Student Relationship Dynamic: A Study of Faculty Who Teach Online Courses at a Public Four-year University*, Tracy Ann Kent , Doctoral Dissertation (2013)  
[http://idea.library.drexel.edu/bitstream/1860/4277/1/Kent\\_TracyEdD.pdf](http://idea.library.drexel.edu/bitstream/1860/4277/1/Kent_TracyEdD.pdf)
- *Administrative Support Of Faculty Preparation And Interactivity In Online Teaching: Factors In Student Success* , J.E. Travis and G. Rutherford, *National Forum Of Educational Administration And Supervision Journal*, Volume 30, Number 1, 2012-2013  
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# Resources and References

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- K.R. Jones, *Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks*, Volume 17: Issue 1 (2013)  
[http://sloanconsortium.org/sites/default/files/4\\_Developing\\_and\\_Implementing\\_a\\_Mandatory\\_Online\\_Student\\_Orientation\\_1.pdf](http://sloanconsortium.org/sites/default/files/4_Developing_and_Implementing_a_Mandatory_Online_Student_Orientation_1.pdf)
- R. Ali and E. Leeds, *Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration*, Volume XII, Number IV, Winter 2009, University of West Georgia, Distance Education Center  
<http://www.westga.edu/~distance/ojdla/winter124/ali124.html>
- G. Beyrer, "Online Student Success: Making a Difference," *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching* 6, no.1 (2010).  
[http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/beyrer\\_0310.htm](http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/beyrer_0310.htm)



# State Authorization



One Mississippi,  
Two Mississippi,  
Three Mississippi...Go!

# State Authorization

- Institutions must adhere to all laws and regulations in the states they are serving
- Serving students outside of California *may require* your institution to obtain authorization from other states
- Requirements vary from state to state

<http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/State%20Authorization%20Fees%2012-2012.pdf>

# Proposed Federal Regulation

## Chapter 34, § 600.9(c)

If an institution is offering postsecondary education through distance or correspondence education to students in a State in which it is not physically located or in which it is otherwise subject to State jurisdiction as determined by the State, ***the institution must meet any State requirements for it to be legally offering distance or correspondence education in that State.*** An institution must be able to document to the Secretary the State's approval upon request."

# SARA



(Wrong Sara!)

# SARA – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

- Agreement among member states
- Establishes comparable national standards for interstate DE
- Centralizes authorization process
- Significant cost savings to member states versus individually seeking authorization
- Membership open – Indiana the first state to join a SARA
- For more information: <http://nc-sara.org>

# Special Thanks!

- Dolores Davison, ASCCC Executive Committee/Past Chair, DE Task Force
- LeBaron Woodyard, Dean, Instructional Programs and Services Units, CCCCCO

Questions?

Thank you!