Opening in the fall, the Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) building at the Canyon Country campus will include a computer lab, laptop lab, and four “smart” Classrooms. The additional technology on the campus will augment the trade-specific equipment in the Applied Technology building, giving students a true hands-on education in the various programs represented in the new facility.

Seventy-three computers were purchased or added for this new facility over the summer, bringing the total computer count at Canyon Country to 334, a 28 percent increase.

A few of the rooms showcase a new wall-mounted projector unit installed above the projection screen. The shorter distance still fills the image on the screen and results in fewer shadows.

Weatherstation

Wondering what the weather is like outside before you come into work? You can get an up-to-the-minute forecast and current conditions outlook through the COC Weather Bug web page. We have been broadcasting since 2004 and are only one of a couple locations in the valley that offer weather telemetry to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Homeland Security.

Student Technology Workshops

Information Technology, Distance Education, and Student Development are kicking off our 2011-12 Student Technology Workshop series. The workshops were created 18 months ago to help students with technology tasks specific to student learning. Specifically, we have offered workshops in PowerPoint, formatting your paper in MLA style using Word, creating charts in Excel, Photoshop, and navigating Blackboard.

The workshops are roughly 30 minutes in length, advertised by the Cougar Mentors in Student Development, and taught by members of the IT or Distance Education staff.

If you have workshop ideas you would like us to offer this year, please let us know. Otherwise, watch for an announcement coming soon for our fall sessions.
Windows 7 and OS X keyboard shortcuts

Keyboard shortcuts are a combination of two or more keys that can be used in place of a mouse or pointing device to perform a task. You can also create your own shortcuts. For further information & instructions, go to http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/Keyboard-shortcuts

PowerPoint keyboard shortcuts

Shortcuts used during a PowerPoint presentation can also come in handy. For example, to start a presentation from the first slide, hit F5. To advance to the next slide, hit enter or the space bar. For further information & tips, go to http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/Keyboard-shortcuts

Live, On-line Communication With CCCConfer

By John Makevich

Teaching and meeting online can present many obvious advantages. We all have busy schedules, and several employees and students exist between two campuses. In addition, with the ever-expanding presence of online education at the college level, there is such a burning need to be able to provide students with avenues to learn at a distance. Technology is pervasive, so access to these opportunities is widespread. But many of us still miss the subtle nuances of the face-to-face learning and meeting experience.

Fortunately, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office funds a statewide grant to provide improved live presence for these experiences. This tool, CCCConfer, is a web meeting platform that provides a virtual whiteboard, chat, audio, video, and the ability to load presentation slides from PowerPoint. Meetings can easily include participants from many locations and can engage individuals in not only live conversation, but even live editing of documents and side conversation in chat. Likewise, for online classes, an instructor may choose to provide live lectures for students who are able to attend at the scheduled time. All meetings and classes can be archived for those who have difficulty attending the live sessions.

All employees of the California Community College system have free access to this application and can request an account at their website (http://www.cccconfer.org). Their site has a plethora of training tools and information that can get you started. In addition, the Distance Learning Department offers professional development for the use of this application at College of the Canyons. Consult the Professional Development website for scheduled times and locations (http://www.canyons.edu/offices/pd/).