Windows 10 is Coming!

By Hsiawen Hull

You knew it was bound to happen, you JUST got comfy with your Windows 7 upgrade and here comes Microsoft and the college’s IT department with an all new operating system for you to learn! But fear not my fellow COC employees, the Computer Support department has been testing this all new Windows platform for the last few months and with the help of a brave group of faculty and staff, we have been working to ensure the usability of existing District applications. So when is the happy day? Starting this summer, new laptops and desktops coming onto campus will be deployed with Windows 10. In preparation for the new operating system, we are working with Professional Development to deliver workshops to demonstrate the all new features available in Windows 10 and how they function in your office and in your classroom. Keep your eyes peeled!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Datatel Stand Up</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>BONH106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Technology Committee</td>
<td>3:15pm</td>
<td>PDR 2</td>
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</tbody>
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See Professional Development for a complete list of workshops.

College of the Canyons Wins Two State Technology Awards

By Mark Garcia

College of the Canyons was recognized for excellence in technology at the CISOA Conference in Anaheim. These awards were selected from projects and colleges across the entire California Community College system. The first award was the Technology Focus Award, being awarded to the MIS Department for creating the program that texts students before registration appointments. The other award was the CISOA Technology Excellence Award for the year of IT projects that helped improve student services as well as other aspects of the Campus through technology. Jim Temple and Mark Garcia received these awards on the school’s behalf.
Data Security, It’s a Thing!

By Hsiawen Hull

If you’ve been keeping an eye on the news, you know that data security has been a really hot button topic and maybe you didn’t know why. Whether it’s the FBI v. Apple, Major Retailers v. Hackers, or the Maricopa Community College data breach, organizations are fielding attacks from all sides. What is College of the Canyons doing to secure data? We have quite a few systems in place, from our local virus protection, web based SPAM filter, computer data encryption and strong password policies we’re doing our part to keep the District secure. But, it’s important to remember, all these systems hinge on one thing, our users. What can you do to help? First off, never share your passwords. Sure it’s easier to provide a staff member with access to your account when you’re away from the office, but what is ON your computer? Personnel information? Student Data? Also, we know it’s inconvenient to require password resets, but remember your password gives you access to things like, local documents, portions of the college’s website, our mail system and even department shares. Is there anything on there that a data thief shouldn’t have access to? Next, don’t click that link! IT will never send you an email asking you to confirm your password. And when I say never I mean NEVER. If you see an email from us it will always include on campus contact information and if you’re worried call. Always backup your data safely. Data that is critical to the operation of the college or your department should be stored on campus servers. Personal information including assignments, photos or even your music collection should be stored offline on external hard drives or on your home PC. Finally, lock your phone! I know, typing in the password can be a pain when you’re constantly reaching for that phone, but what’s on there? Your bank app? Your personal contacts? Your passwords that you store in an unsecured notes file? Remember, data security is most definitely a thing and IT needs your help to make it a reality.

March IT Birthdays!

Jack Garbett - March 3
Alex Fors - March 21
Chad Estrella - March 28

If you see them on campus on their special day, please wish them a Happy Birthday!