For Immediate Release

Academic Services Announces launch of several new sites & services

Academic Services, Information Systems, April 7, 2009: Academic Services, a division of Information Systems, is working with numerous departments within Northwestern State University to improve marketability, accessibility, and publishing workflow on their websites. By designing and implementing new systems to host software and content, Academic Services can now provide campus units with an easy to manage website that can be managed via a web browser rather than specialized software installed on a university workstation.

As part of a new initiative, Academic Services is re-developing the main Northwestern State website to allow for better marketing capabilities, as well as focusing on core accessibility. The new main website will have a modern look, a better layout, and easier to find information. Additional features will allow displaying marketing messages to visitors from off-campus to allow for better targeted marketing to help encourage the recruitment and retention of students directly via the first page of Northwestern’s site.

As this new initiative is implemented any campus unit with a website will be upgraded to a new site that uses the new publishing model. Any campus unit with immediate interest may request a new website, and will be provided with a web address with easy to use software pre-installed with a sleek new appearance that shows cohesion with other Northwestern State websites as well as a modern touch. Any content on a site can be managed completely within the campus unit, including any text, files available for download, and multimedia files. A unit ready to work with their updated site can simply log in via their existing web browser and make changes that are instantly reflected on the site.

Several units have utilized this service to improve their online presence. Academic Services is announcing the immediate availability of the following new sites:

- Academic Services:  http://academicservices.nsula.edu
- Advance Program for Young Scholars:  http://advance.nsula.edu
- Financial Aid:  http://financialaid.nsula.edu
- Spirit of Northwestern Demon Band:  http://demonband.nsula.edu
- Student Employment:  http://studentemployment.nsula.edu
Any campus units interested in joining the pilot program for new sites should contact Academic Services for information.

In addition to the new unit sites, Academic Services has deployed new software services which are available to the campus. LimeSurvey software makes it possible for individuals, departments, and organizations to create and execute surveys without using off campus services. LimeSurvey allows simple or advanced surveys to be generated with the ability to control how they are published. Many options are also available for managing results.

http://wiki.nsula.edu is a campus wiki system that can be used to share information either publicly, or privately within a group. It brings the flexibility and unique publishing model of a wiki and adds the capability of content creators to access control to their data.

Campus units utilizing, or interested in utilizing, instant messaging for internal/campus communication now have the option of a local jabber server. The NSU jabber server uses the industry standard XMPP chat protocol and is compatible with any standard jabber chat client. Any faculty or staff can log in using their favorite client by using their NSU email and password to connect. Interested units can contact Academic Services to have their chat roster auto-populated with the members in your group/department. Instant Messaging services allow quick and convenient, yet optional, communication with individuals next-door or all the way across campus.

If your department or group is interested in any of these services, contact Academic Services for more information:

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