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Innovative, Collaborative Digital Community Colleges Recognized in Annual Survey

The Center for Digital Education's Digital Community Colleges Survey Awards honor community colleges utilizing technology to engage students, collaborate with K-12 and other educational institutions, and improve learning.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – April 25, 2018 - The Center for Digital Education (CDE) announced the winners of its [2017-18 Digital Community Colleges Survey](#) today. Now in its thirteenth year, the Digital Community Colleges Survey analyzes how community colleges use a range of technologies to improve services to students, faculty, staff and the community at large.

Highlights of the First-Place Colleges in each Category:

- **J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Va. (Enrollment 10,000 students or more)**

After the recommendation by its Education Technology Advisory Committee, the college purchased laptops for its faculty to provide better mobility and enhanced productivity and creativity. At faculty request, IT completed a Windows 10 migration on all academic computers across the college. In addition, the college offers free library checkout of laptops and mobile devices, helping reduce the digital divide. Another success involves Reynolds leveraging technology to help students with developmental math through Math Central, a model that combines math coaches and access to computer-based instruction.

- **Walters State Community College, Tenn. (Enrollment between 5,000 and 10,000 students)**

The college collaborates with the Northeast Tennessee Technical Education Association, which represents K-12 programs in the upper East Tennessee, 10-county area, in programs such as Welding, Computer Applications, and Solar Energy. The college participates in the Tennessee Transfer Pathways programs in Computer Science, Agriculture, and Pre-Veterinary Science that make use of collaborative technologies used in the classroom. Additionally, the college's dual enrollment program continues to offer multiple modes of delivery to all dual enrollment students including online, desktop video, video-streaming, and hybrid classes.

- **Manchester Community College, N.H. (Enrollment of 5,000 or fewer students)**
In addition to virtual reality crime scenes with 360-degree cameras for use in Cybersecurity classrooms, and simulation labs used in the Nursing department, Manchester Community College opened an Advanced Technologies Building for its HVAC, Electrical Technology and Mechatronics curriculum. Mechatronics combines the study of mechanical and electrical systems with software programming. The structure has exposed infrastructure to help students understand and work with the newest technology, and 14 different specialty labs with the latest automation technology.

The survey also revealed insights about community colleges' technology priorities. Colleges surveyed indicated that mobility devices/app support is their top priority for the coming year, followed by cyber security tools and testing, website redesign/updates, upgrading classroom technologies, digital content and curriculum, and disaster recovery/business continuity. The survey revealed that 34% of colleges have a strategy in place for the use of mobile devices; 35% have a full-time Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) or similar full-time staff in charge of cybersecurity; 71% of the colleges' websites have responsive web design; and 88% of colleges have off-site data storage redundancies in place.

All accredited U.S. community colleges are eligible to participate in the Digital Community Colleges Survey within three classifications based on enrollment size. CDE thanks last year's first-place winners who abstained from participation to contribute as members of the development panel for this year's survey: Thomas Nelson Community College, Va.; Lord Fairfax Community College, Va.; and Carl Sandburg College, Ill.

View the [full list of colleges honored, and selected survey findings](#).

About the Center for Digital Education

The Center for Digital Education (CDE) is a national research and advisory institute specializing in K-12 and higher education technology trends, policy and funding. CDE provides education and industry leaders with decision support and actionable insights to help effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century. Learn more at: www.centerdigitaled.com

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