

Prior to launching the Virtual Classroom, CTU and AIU students and faculty were working on different classroom platforms based on whether they attended online or on campus classes. Hybrid students were also bouncing between the two classroom platforms each time they switched from an online to an on campus class. Technical support resources were split between the two platforms and adoption at ground campuses was not strong.

The new Virtual Classroom provides a level of convenience that was not available previously. The design encompasses one click functionality that enables students to access features more quickly due to the requirement that they only log in once to then have access to 3<sup>rd</sup> party solutions integrated into the Virtual Classroom like Adobe Connect for access to live chat, Microsoft Office 365 for access to integrated Microsoft tools, Realizeit for access to Intellipath™ adaptive learning technology, Vital Source for access to eBooks and Turnitin for access to plagiarism checking tools.

In addition the newly launched CTU mobile application version allows students to participate in CTU course live chats, find and identify assignments, respond to discussion board posts, and submit projects. Students can also track their degree progress, course grades, and upcoming assignments and be notified of new grades, replies to discussion board posts through push notifications. The mobile application also connects students directly to faculty, advisors, and support staff via email and/or phone, instantly in a single touch. In Q1 2016, the AIU mobile app will have all this same functionality.

Now students and faculty taking and teaching classes online and on campus use the same platform that enables a seamless user experience between classes and eliminates the learning curve associated with multiple platforms. The Virtual Classroom can be accessed anywhere in the world that provides an internet connect and students and faculty can also utilize the new mobile application to stay connected on the go. There are just over 30,000 students and faculty currently using the new Virtual Classroom and nearly 40,000 users are expected by the end of 2015.

The Virtual Classroom has had a positive impact on students and faculty due to the improved student and faculty user experience and the solution's scalability that enables CEC to easily add new academic content and features as curriculums grow and change. This allows the universities to determine best practices for learning materials including assignments, quizzes and exams and share them with similar classes. This helps enable quality and consistency throughout each university.

The Virtual Classroom also serves to enhance the online relationship between students and faculty so faculty is able to better support their students in every way. In the Virtual Classroom, instructors can create content with a simplified workflow and improved performance. Important student information is available wherever a faculty member navigates to in the Virtual Classroom including the roster, the attendance module, and the many grading areas where they can quickly access specific student work including discussion board posts, academic assessment results and written submissions. Faculty have said the gradebook is smart in how it provides notifications and alerts to help drive the grading workflow and assists them in completing academic tasks.

