



DARS/u.select News

October 2010

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DARS/u.select Users Conference – biggest turnout ever!

An unprecedented 92 participants attended this year's conference held at the Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center on September 28 – 29, 2010. For the first time, all 37 institutions were represented at the conference!

The theme of this year's conference was 'Back to the Basics'. In times of increased expectations and reduced resources, there were many opportunities for campus DARS program and transfer encoders to share best practices and get clarification on expectations.

With the launch of the www.veterans.mnscu.edu website, it was a greatly appreciated opportunity for campus staff to learn about the site from Gina Sobania and Nikki Perala and the data needed to make it work for students with military experience.

There was much discussion about the impact of the Smart Transfer Plan and eTranscript. Roundtable sessions provided the opportunity for open discussion, questions and sharing of information. Several campus users participated in presentations to share some of their resources and business practices.

Advanced training topics and Tips and Tricks were presented by the DARS/u.select Team and by Margo Mueller from the University of Minnesota.

One first time attendee commented that "It was obvious that the attendees were engaged, that they valued the opportunity to get together and that they were being presented worthwhile information." Conference evaluations confirmed a sincere appreciation for the opportunity to get together and hear from colleagues on the issues they face as they serve students around the state. Conference presentations are posted on the MnSCU DARS/u.select project website at:

http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/registration/agenda_September2010.html

Locating Veterans Regional Coordinators

If you haven't yet introduced yourself to your Higher Education Veterans Program Regional Coordinator, their contact information can be found online at: http://www.mnveteranservice.org/documents/Veterans_Coordinators.html

Students First Project Updates

<http://www.studentsfirst.project.mnscu.edu/>

- ✓ **Equivalent Course Search in Single Registration:** Expect an announcement from the ISRS Help Desk when this becomes available to students. The week of October 4, we hope to receive a PowerPoint presentation from Sonya Jacobs that explains this new feature and will forward that to you via our DARS listserv.
- ✓ **Graduation Planner:** We are not aware of any news to report at this time on Graduation Planner.

Enhancements!!

Look for an email on Monday, October 4th about the 3 enhancements that were announced at this week's User Conference.

- ✚ #EM# - Create a Miscellaneous Note exception for a student which adds a text statement in the INCLTOP area of the Degree Audit for that student only.
<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/PoundEM.pdf>
- ✚ #GR - Using Exp Grad Term field to determine whether a student has already applied to graduate and notify student of the graduation application status.
<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/PoundGR.pdf>
- ✚ #GG - Student whose major has been end-dated gets a GRAD audit with customizable text.
<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/PoundGG.pdf>

Remote Courses fix

Courses appearing in FA0207UG – Course Applicability Maintenance Screen - do not feed into the Degree Audit like old Consortium Courses did.

Some schools want to:

- Have these courses appear and be treated in the Degree Audit like home courses
- Have these courses process only as Transfer Credit.

Beginning October 4, schools wishing to use the a) option above may add an entry in their INCLTOP requirements - #CA - to have these courses pulled in for Degree Audit processing.

7	#CA		
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Schools using #CA should only use #CA if they will not transfer these courses in.

These courses must be added as acceptable courses into the sub-requirements where they should appear on the audit, since they won't convert to home courses like they do using DARS Transfer Articulation. Documentation is posted at:
<http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/PoundCA.pdf>

CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We invite you to let us know about information you wish to share with other MnSCU schools. We particularly welcome news from you that will impact DARS encoding and

transfer processing within MnSCU. Celebrate accomplishments towards new initiatives by sharing your victories with your colleagues...small or large.

DOCUMENTATION:

DARS Catalogs

Eighteen DARS Military catalogs are available for sending to your production DARS. Military **course** tables include course number, version number and associated date ranges. Military **occupation** tables include occupation number, skill/rank level and associated date ranges. Please use the form located at http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/updates/documents/pdf/Request_MilitaryDARS.pdf to request military catalogs.

New Courses Inserts

Twenty-two schools have requested the 2009-2010 new courses inserts! This number is a record high for requests. It is not too late to request the 2009-2010, or earlier, new courses inserts. Description for the 2009-2010 Curriculum Changes, New Courses, and New MnTC Courses can be found in the June Newsletter:

http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/news/2010_documents/June_News_2010.pdf

If your college or university would like the new course inserts, please make your request to mary.dandrea@so.mnscu.edu.

TRAINING & CONFERENCES:

Training dates for Fall 2010 are posted below. If you have new or existing staff that will be using DARS or u.select, please encourage them to attend the appropriate training session(s) as they are announced. Even if you or your staff already attended training, you are welcome to attend again. Many people find a return visit to training helpful.

- **Transfer Articulation Training** – is scheduled for October 12-13, 2010, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at Wells Fargo Place, Training Room 3354.
- **Basic Encoding Training** – has been rescheduled and will be held October 19-20, 2010, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Wells Fargo Place, Training Room 3354.
- **u.select Advisor Training** – training offered via WebEx, October 14, 2010, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- **u.select Administrator Training** – training offered via WebEx upon request, (after registering, participants will be contacted to arrange date & time).

All training will be held at Wells Fargo Place in Saint Paul, unless otherwise indicated. Training will be in Room 2204 or 3354, depending on the number of registered participants.

Registration for all training, open labs, and conferences can be found at the following link: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training_index.html. The format will allow you to check the dates of the training, review agendas, and register from the same page. *REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1 week prior to training or open lab dates.* Upon completion of all training and labs, please complete the Training Evaluation at: <http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/evaluation.html>.

THIRD Wednesday & Thursday/DARS OPEN LABS:

Third Wednesday & Thursday – October 20 & 21 at Wells Fargo Place, Room 2204 or 3354. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1 week prior to training or open lab dates.

DARS "**Out West**" **Open Lab** – is scheduled for October 6, 2010 at Minnesota State University Moorhead, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Library 204.

DARS "**North Shore**" **Open Lab** – is scheduled for October 28, 2010 at Lake Superior College, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Library, Room E1022.

DARS "**Up North**" **Open Lab** – is scheduled for November 10, 2010 at Bemidji State University, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in Ozawindib Room, Hobson Memorial Union. **NOTE: New Room Location**

DARS "**Down South**" **Open Lab** – is scheduled for December 7, 2010 at South Central College, Faribault or North Mankato (depending on who attends), 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

DARS "**Central**" **Open Lab** – is scheduled for December 9, 2010 at the Quarry Center, Waite Park, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration can be found online at:
http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/training/training_regform_new.html

Driving directions and parking ramp information to Wells Fargo Place can be found online at: http://www.dars.mntransfer.org/registration/directions_WFP.html

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Marla Delaney at marla.delaney@csu.mnscu.edu. Thank you.