New Blackboard Features – Spring 2015

New features will include the following:

- **Student Preview**
  - While in Student Preview mode you can interact with the course as if you were a student, including taking quizzes/tests, submitting assignments, posting to discussions, etc.

- **Course Messages Updates**
  - Anyone enrolled in a course can now receive a notification that they have new course messages from the Updates area in My Blackboard, in What’s New module on both institutional and course module pages, and from email.

- **Grading Improvements**
  - Blackboard redesigned the My Grades page so students can sort and display their grades by what has been graded, what is upcoming, and what has been submitted, but is not yet graded.
  - When you create an assessment or assignment with multiple attempts, you can now specify how Blackboard should calculate the grades (e.g., use the last graded attempt, use the highest grade, average all attempts, etc.). Previously, you would have to edit the grade center column after creating the activity.
  - You can manually override the total points possible for a test while maintaining the integrity of the scoring.
  - Grading Schemas can now have values greater than 100%

Did you know these tools were available NOW?

- **Test Access Log**
  - This tool shows a list of every interaction students engaged in when taking a test. If a student claims to have started a test, the log will show the time the test was started. If a network or internet disruption occurred during the test for example, the log would show an unusual gap in the time.

- **Retention Center**
  - Discover which students in your course are at risk. Based on preconfigured rules and rules you create, students’ engagement and participation are visually displayed in the Retention Center, quickly alerting you to potential risk. You can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.

- **Test Availability Exceptions**
  - Use exceptions to provide an accommodation to a disabled student, or provide accommodations for technology and language differences. Select one student, several students, or groups of students.
New Blackboard Features

- **Test Feedback Options**
  - By setting up rules, you can set the release of progressive feedback to keep test results secure and prevent cheating. Students also see their submitted answers marked as correct or incorrect and any feedback you provided.

- **Date Management**
  - Use this tool to easily adjust all content and tool dates in your course. You can choose to adjust dates automatically or individually based on the course’s starting date, the term information, or by number of days when you know exactly how many days you want to adjust dates by.

- **Group Management**
  - Easily see which students are in which groups, including which students are not in any groups. Choose and manage membership for group’s sets, and create Grade Center smart views for one or more groups on the All Groups page.

Have a question about using any of these tools? Please contact rboroon@csudh.edu