26c – Lynda.com eLearning and Blended Learning Training Delivery

Action Item Template Response

General Action Item Information

Lead Division/Office: Learning Technologies
Action Item Number: 26c
Action Item Short Name: Lynda.com eLearning and Blended learning Training Delivery
Dependencies with other EP Action Items: This will facilitate the success of 26a
Implementation leader (name & email): Chris Payne (paynec@indiana.edu)

I. DESCRIBE YOUR PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS ACTION.

The Empowering People Strategic Plan Action Item 26 states: "IU should develop innovative programs that consider user preferences and learning styles to advance the skills of faculty, staff, and students to use IT resources. Programs should be suited to varying skill levels and modalities for delivery including delivery on demand."

With this in mind, IT Training seeks to add lynda.com self-study elearning courses to its training offerings. Lynda.com is a well-established elearning provider, and offers in-depth, video-based courses focused primarily on Adobe applications, multimedia, and web development. Its content serves as a complement to IT Training's existing STEPS workshops and Skillsoft and Microsoft elearning course offerings, and the video-based delivery style will complement the other in-depth course formats already on offer. By adding lynda.com to IT Training's repertoire of offerings, we will be instantly adding a vast amount of on-demand training on some of the most important technologies being used at Indiana University today.

In addition to making lynda.com training available to users in self-study mode, IT Training will develop blended learning courses that combine lynda's content with classroom-based and/or online, instructor-led components. This can, for instance, give participants the opportunity to learn skills on their own, then put them into practice with additional instruction and hands-on practice opportunities under the guidance of an experienced instructor in a classroom setting. This offers participants the flexibility to learn on their own and benefit from instructional guidance in a tailored setting. It will also help IT Training develop new training offerings in a shorter timeframe by leveraging content from lynda.com.

A complete analysis of the available options from lynda is posted on this site.

II. WHAT ARE THE POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR PLANS?

To fully realize the benefits of adding lynda training to its service offerings, IT Training will do the following:

1. Redesign its web site to be entirely topic driven. In the new web site, a user will select a topic and see the related STEPS workshop and online and blended-learning training options (which will include content created by lynda).
2. Conduct a semester-long pilot offering of lynda.com course content to IU statewide. Survey users and closely examine usage reports at the end of the pilot to assess interest and satisfaction with lynda's courses. A contract has been signed for the pilot, which will run from August 20 - December 20, 2009.

3. Contingent on the pilot's success, create a contract with lynda to offer its training to the statewide IU community via an ongoing site license contract.

4. Promote the lynda courses to encourage participants to take advantage of them in self-study mode. Focus especially on participants who have already demonstrated interest in the technology areas that lynda covers in depth, such as Adobe applications, multimedia, and web development.

5. Create blended learning courses that combine lynda-generated content with IT Training-developed classroom instruction. Take advantage of lynda's high-quality training content to develop blended learning courses more rapidly than the traditional model allows.

I. III. IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS.

Faculty, staff, and students of Indiana University statewide.