**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**UAB System SOLUTIONS Institute** is seeking to hire 2018 Provost’s Awards for Transformative Online Education Recipients. **Deadline June 1, 2018.**

**FAQ:**
**Can I participate in the first workshop before June 1, 2018?**

Yes, you can. All course reviews submitted to eLearning prior to June 1, 2018, will be conducted using the current Rubric — the QM Higher Education Rubric, Fifth Edition. All course reviews submitted on or after June 1, 2018, will be conducted using the new rubric — the QM Higher Education Rubric, Sixth Edition. Therefore, if you have courses that you want to be reviewed using the current Rubric (Fifth Edition), please submit them before June 1, 2018. Courses Nominations due June 1, 2018. Please visit the QM Rubric website for guidelines and additional information. Course reviews submitted on or after June 1, 2018, will be charged $13.95 per exam regardless of duration for any non-Q section course. For any Q section course, please submit them before June 1, 2018.

**More on Canvas.**

Canvas, an online learning platform owned by Blackboard, is planning to activate its “features-coming-to-canvas-and-blackboard-lms” in 2018, replacing the older Canvas 2.x platform. This update aims to provide a new learning experience, which will include the expansion of proctoring services to Canvas, a new adaptive course structure, and the adoption of a new look and feel. These changes are expected to enhance the user experience and offer students and instructors more control, customization, and accessibility in their online learning environments. The changes in Canvas 2.0 will be implemented to align with the increased demand for faster and more interactive learning experiences for both students and instructors. UAB eLearning is pleased to announce that they are actively working on these updates. For more information, visit the eLearning Workshop Series website. Details coming soon!

**References:**
Arizona State University is experimenting with Amazon to develop Alexa skills. Echo, are predicted to become the new face of learning in the near future. Learn more.

**Diverse Learners Provide Diverse Design Opportunities.**

The Division of eLearning and Professional Studies is offering a series of workshops in collaboration with the UAB Center for Teaching and Learning. The workshops are designed for faculty members of the UAB community that exemplify best practices and innovation in online higher education (HE) face-to-face facilitators for applying the QM Rubric. Ms. Wheat and Dr. Barstow overcomes the performance gap for learners striving to obtain a degree in a structured learning environment. The workshops continue through the Spring 2018 semester with more exciting topics for all learners. The workshops began in January with the Canvas Automated Alerts workshop, the foundation course for Online Design and Teaching, and Teaching Tools. The workshops are structured around four areas of focus:

1. Canvas and its updated features
2. Online Design and Teaching, Universal Design for Learning, and Diverse Learners
3. Structured course navigation, including accessibility and ADA compliance
4. ProctorU, a service for proctoring exams online

As part of these workshops, faculty members can learn how to apply new knowledge to their own courses, such as lean essential practices, apply Big Data, and track learner progress. They can also learn how to communicate, develop, and implement new content and best practices. The workshops provide multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement, and are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how to modernize online learning. For more information, please visit the UAB eLearning Workshops website. Details coming soon!

**About:**

Meegie Wheat, MS

**Faculty Spotlight on Dr. Elizabeth Meegie Wheat.**

Dr. Wheat is an online education specialist at UAB. She is a QM Certified Facilitator and passionate about online learning. With her expertise in e-learning and teaching, she provides multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement for learners. She is dedicated to providing diverse design opportunities and ensuring that all learners have access to high-quality education. Learn more.