

E-Learning, Mass Notification Help Keep Teaching and Learning Going

At George Washington University (GW) in Washington, DC, e-learning has long been a central part of the school's plan for education continuity. Prompted by concerns over the H1N1 flu, GW officials have now stepped up preparedness efforts — much like their counterparts at schools and universities nationwide.

Having already set minimum e-learning competency standards for faculty and staff, GW has now launched a series of workshops in partnership with *Blackboard* consultants to give staff the chance to gain more confidence in the key areas of holding

classes online: posting course materials, creating assignments, and using communication tools like discussion boards and forums.

"The Blackboard platform is a core component of our academic continuity preparedness plan, which makes sense since so many use it on a daily basis," said Yordanos Baharu, director of GW's Instructional Technology Lab. "Part of what we're doing in training is getting faculty to think about Plan B. With this plan, we're confident that we can mitigate potential disruptions and provide students and faculty the support they need to continue

teaching with Blackboard's system."

"Across our community of practice, we're seeing a great deal of work to leverage e-learning and mass notification technologies in response to H1N1," said Michael Chasen, president and CEO of Blackboard. "But much of that work is not new, nor is it limited to H1N1. In many cases, it builds on efforts by school and university officials to develop broader preparedness and continuity plans that center on key technologies that already touch students, staff and parents every day."

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College Uses ICFs to Help Attain LEED Certification

Carleton College, in Minnesota, is known for being a sustainable campus. Carleton took put their principles to practice when they built Casat Hall and Memorial Hall, two residential halls to house 230 students, to LEED Gold standards.

The total square footage of each building is 52,150 and 39,376 respectively. The footprint of the construction was offset by a donated piece of land north of the campus.

Energy efficiency and building a leading green school was Carleton's motivation for using ICFs (insulating concrete forms). Because project required LEED Gold certification, *Reward Wall Systems'* ICFs were chosen to assist in achieving optimal energy efficiency.

The architect and the building owner made a joint decision to utilize Reward ICFs for the buildings. The architect was familiar with ICFs, and due the success of

the construction process and the support of Cemstone, they had the confidence to incorporate ICFs on this much larger scale.

"LHB worked with Carleton College to select Reward Insulating Concrete Form construction for the exterior envelope of the new residence halls. ICFs were selected for their sustainable advantages including durability, high thermal mass, and low air infiltration," explained Maureen Ness AIA, LEED-AP, CDT. "Reward Wall Systems' ICF product met all of our sustainable design criteria as well as providing the versatility required for the unique building footprints."

ICF load-bearing walls, in conjunction with hollow-core precast floor slabs, created an efficient structure designed to assist in meeting Carleton's tight construction schedule, as well as create optimal use of indoor spaces.

Aesthetic requirements made this job unique as it was required that the buildings



The architect and structural engineers worked closely with Reward's design staff to incorporate various efficient design details. Reward offered a variety of technical aids ranging from CAD details to dynamic block library details and engineering and architectural design guidance materials.

blend in with existing campus architecture and use exterior brick veneers. ICFs provided the versatility to use any exterior finish application and met this requirement easily.

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