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e-LIS launches online portfolio system for students

By **Rebecca Wyatt Thomas**, OU Web Writer

E-Learning and Instructional Support (e-LIS) has developed an online system for students to develop online portfolios. Students can load resume information, cover letters, samples of their work and reference material into **ePortfolio** for prospective employers to view. The **Student Technology Center** is offering training on the system for students who want help getting started.

"The ePortfolio system has all of the functionality of Moodle, OU's online classroom system, with a different template," said Cathy Cheal, assistant vice president of e-Learning and Instructional Support. "Students can personalize the online environment to fit their needs. Employers log in to the e-portfolio as a guest to view the students' work."

Mentors from the Student Technology Center were trained on ePortfolio and can help students who are getting started. A number of workshops are being held to introduce students to the system. Career Services also provides information on what students should include and how to market themselves to future employers. There is also online help information for students who want to refer to it.

The ePortfolio system can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection. Students use their OU computing Account login to enter their ePortfolio. They can direct future employers to the ePortfolio system where the employer will opt to log in as a guest. They will select the student's name and enter the enrollment key provided to them by the student.

E-LIS developed the ePortfolio system during summer 2007. The developers decided to use Moodle as a base for the tool because it is open source, which allows users to tweak it and personalize it.

Besides the ePortfolio system, the system is also being used in other areas. Departments are using the system for assessments and student organizations are using it for forums and online collaboration.

E-LIS has opened a custom graphic contest for the Moodle course management system and ePortfolio. Students can submit graphics, either photographs or drawings/paintings that represent OU and/or online learning at Oakland University by Friday, Feb. 22 for a chance to win a software package of their choice. Runners up will receive 2GB USB drives. For more information, visit the Moodle or ePortfolio log in Web pages.

For more information on ePortfolio, visit the **ePortfolio** Web site or contact the **Student Technology Center** for training information.

SUMMARY

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