



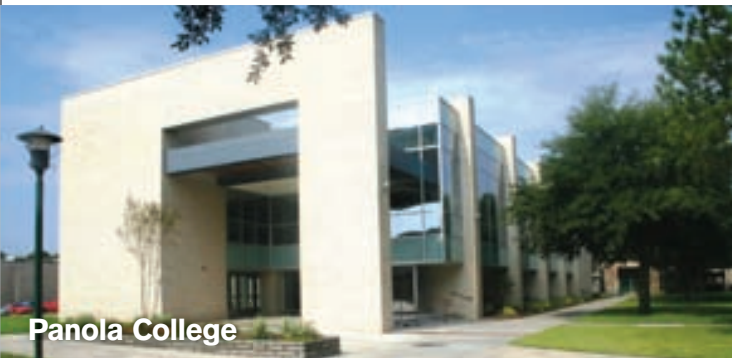
Montgomery County Community College



Laramie County Community College

Community colleges across the country have been serving students and faculty by sparking learning in the classroom. To do this, a community college must have a solid information technology infrastructure on which it can build outstanding projects and programs. Thirty-six of the hundreds of community colleges nationwide set outstanding examples and implemented a wide range of technology initiatives on their campuses, according to the Center for Digital Education. The top community colleges were awarded for their efforts in the 2009 Digital Community Colleges Survey, underwritten by HP ProCurve and Oracle.

The Center surveyed these colleges to find out how they have been innovating with technology in areas including online admissions, student access to transcripts and grades, and curriculum and campus life. The following is a snapshot of what the top-ranked colleges in three enrollment categories have been doing to garner such accolades.



Panola College

# DIGITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES SURVEY

## 2009 Winners

### 1st Montgomery County Community College; Blue Bell, Pa.

**Category:** Large colleges with 7,500 students or more

**Fall 2008 enrollment:** 12,864

At Montgomery County Community College, 21 sites around campus have video conferencing equipment that allows classes to go on virtual field trips.

Pre-service education students, for example, observed an elementary school classroom through video conferencing over Internet2, allowing them to discuss the same situations with each other and their instructor, and interact virtually with the other class.

To improve programs such as this one, the college is transforming its data into information that will show administrators what modifications need to be made.

### 1st Laramie County Community College; Cheyenne, Wyo.

**Category:** Mid-sized colleges with 3,000 to 7,500 students

**Fall 2008 enrollment:** 5,033

The admissions process at Laramie County Community College has gone high-tech. When prospective students log into the online portal, the system records their interests and customizes information to suit their student profile.

Michael Walters, former vice president of information technology and chief information officer, said that students and faculty tell the IT team what their technology needs are — and the team members listen.

As a result, the college bought five Slingboxes for faculty members to share. The boxes allow faculty and students to use computers to watch programs or breaking news on international TV channels.

### 1st Panola College; Carthage, Texas

**Category:** Small colleges with less than 3,000 students

**Fall 2008 enrollment:** 1,983

Students at Panola College can gain a learning experience in the world of YouTube. One instructor has his distance-learning students perform speeches in front of an audience and record themselves. Then they upload their videos to YouTube, where he evaluates their performance.

Allen West, director of information technology, said that if faculty members want to incorporate podcasts or video into classrooms, they can start doing it relatively quickly without going through a lengthy approval process.

The campus also provides students with the ability to watch real-time interactive lectures from other colleges and universities in four classrooms on campus.

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For the full list of Digital Community College Survey Winners, please visit [www.convergemag.com/awards/digital-community-colleges](http://www.convergemag.com/awards/digital-community-colleges).