UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo

Guymon Hall / Ed Jorgensen
Department of Computer Science

The teaching practice and the need it addresses:

Software Support Tools
This practice involves the use of software support tools to automate some specific functions involving first year courses.

Campus Location Familiarization
A *QR Code Scavenger Hunt System* was developed for first year students to help with campus familiarization. While most students will be able to find major campus buildings, many specific locations and offices can be more difficult to find. This difficulty can lead to not effectively utilizing important resources such as free tutoring, writing center, library services, OIT help desk, and/or discipline specific locations/laboratories.

Lab Score Recording
A *Lab Grader System* was developed to help address score recording in a laboratory setting. For large classes with multiple lab sessions and multiple Teaching Assistants (TAs), effectively recording the laboratory project completion and score is a challenge. Performing this function with hard-copy lists was ineffective and completing data entry was time-consuming and error prone. The Lab Grader system allows an authorized TA to scan a preassigned student QR code, confirm the name/score, and hit enter. An e-mail confirmation is immediately sent to the student and the score is recorded in the system. Scores can be downloaded in Excel or CVS format.

Evidence this practice benefits UNLV students:

Student response to both systems has been positive and it is generally felt by the instructors that these systems are useful.

Resources and where to find them:

Points of Contact
- QR Code Scavenger Hunt System
  - Guymon Hall (guymon.hall@unlv.edu), 702-895-4852
- Lab Grader System
  - Ed Jorgensen (jorgense@unlv.nevada.edu), 702-895-5409

How other UNLV Teachers might adopt this practice:

The QR Code Scavenger Hunt System could be used any first year course instructors in any discipline. The Lab Grader System could be used for any course that requires Instructor/GA verified, exercise-based laboratory work.