



**SRSU Office of Academic Affairs
Fall 2026**

Alpine Campus Brown Bag Event

WHAT: Fall 2026 Instructional Services at SRSU Update

WHEN: Friday, September 25th, 2026, from 11:50am to 1:15pm





Welcome & Opening

Provost Bernie Canteñs

SRSU Office of Academic Affairs

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(...and some general housekeeping with Tim before
we get started...)



TSUS Shared Services Partnership

Sul Ross State University and Sam Houston State University

SHSU Online Team



Dr. Ruth Chisum – Assistant Vice President for Online Operations

Jacob Spradlin – Executive Director of Online Instructional Development and Support

Ricki Lee Hodges Neri – TSUS Blackboard Master Administrator

Daniel Walker - Director for Online Technology Support Operations

Ray Scheel - Associate Director for Course Development

Jason Woodall - Associate Director of Online Instructional Development and Support

Rachel Scherer - Senior Instructional Designer

SRSU Blackboard Support Team



Tim Parsons & Rachel Carvajal – SRSU Blackboard Admins & Instructional Design Support



SRSU Office of Information Technology Team



Patrick Stewart – Chief information Officer (both **SRSU & Lamar**)

Paula Arredondo – Executive Director of Information Technology Operations

Paedric Rayburn – Senior Network System Admin

George Hernandez - Director OIT Operations MRGC

Sarah Sheffield – Information Security Specialist

Dominick Percoco – Manager of OIT Client Services

Pedro-Alcario Garcia – Network Admin I

Santana Taranga – Network System Admin

Cade Cleveland – Technical Support Specialist I ALP

Christian Ontiveros – Technical Support Specialist I ALP

Dominique Portillo – Technical Support Specialist I ALP

Juan Garza - Technical Support Specialist II EP





SRSU OIT Update

Dom Percoco (& friends)
Manager of OIT Client Services



Instructional Services / Blackboard Instructional Designer
SRSU Faculty Training Center Update

Rachel Carvajal
SRSU Instructional Technology Specialist

Faculty Training Center

BAB 319

By Appointment Only

Contact: rcarvajal@sulross.edu

Support and solutions for:

- Blackboard
- Online learning and course design
- Educational technology tools
- Accessibility best practices and compliance guidance

Need Help?
Schedule a consultation for
one-on-one support,
troubleshooting, training, and
guidance.

Accessibility Compliance Deadline

April 2027 Target: All online courses should achieve a 90% or higher Blackboard Accessibility Checker score.

Why it matters:

- Improves access for all learners
- Supports compliance with accessibility expectations
- Helps identify and correct common content issues
- Creates a more inclusive online learning environment

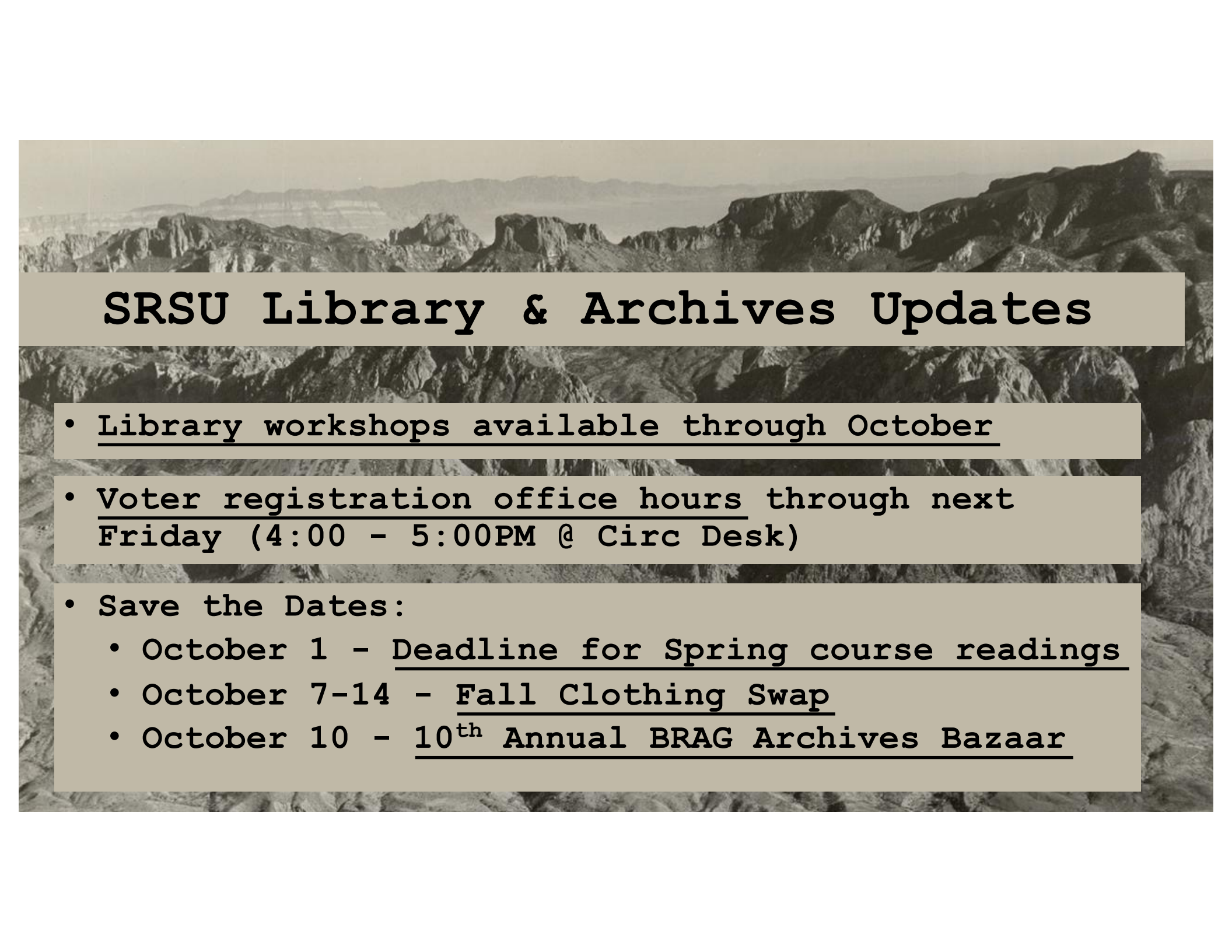
The Faculty Training Center can help faculty review courses, interpret checker results, and improve accessibility scores before the deadline.



SRSU Library Resources Update

Taylor Moore

Coordinator of Technical Services & Outreach



SRSU Library & Archives Updates

- Library workshops available through October
- Voter registration office hours through next Friday (4:00 - 5:00PM @ Circ Desk)
- Save the Dates:
 - October 1 - Deadline for Spring course readings
 - October 7-14 - Fall Clothing Swap
 - October 10 - 10th Annual BRAG Archives Bazaar



SRSU Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Laura Payne (& friends)
Dean of Case College (LASS),
Graduate Studies & Online Education



SRSU Online Teaching Excellence Award 2026 Update

Dr. Jennifer Haan

Professor of Practice & Educational Leadership
Program Coordinator



SRSU Office of Development and Advancement & Dual Credit Update

Dr. John Klingemann
VP of Development & Advancement



SRSU Media & Communications Spotlight

Nico Westerlink

SRSU Social Media Coordinator

Bobby (BobbyG) Greeson

SRSU Media Specialist

WEB 'N' SOCIALS WEDNESDAY

*Need assistance updating
your webpage?*

*Got a new program
in the works?*

*Want help with your
social media page?*

EVERY 2nd WEDS.
3 PM
UC CAFETERIA

Next meeting: **Sept. 30**

QUESTIONS?

Contact Vincent Parras or Nico Westerlink
Email webmaster@sulross.edu





SRSU Current Grants Update

Kendall Craig

Executive Director of Sponsored Programs



Instructional Services / Blackboard Development & Support

SRSU Blackboard Ultra Faculty Update

Tim Parsons

SRSU Instructional Services & SRSU Team Blackboard

SRSU Blackboard Training & Support:

SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Support - email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu **OR call toll-free - 888.837.6055**

AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

SRSU Faculty Training Center – ALP Campus BAB 319

Schedule a virtual one-on-one or FTC on-site training with your friendly SRSU Instructional Designer

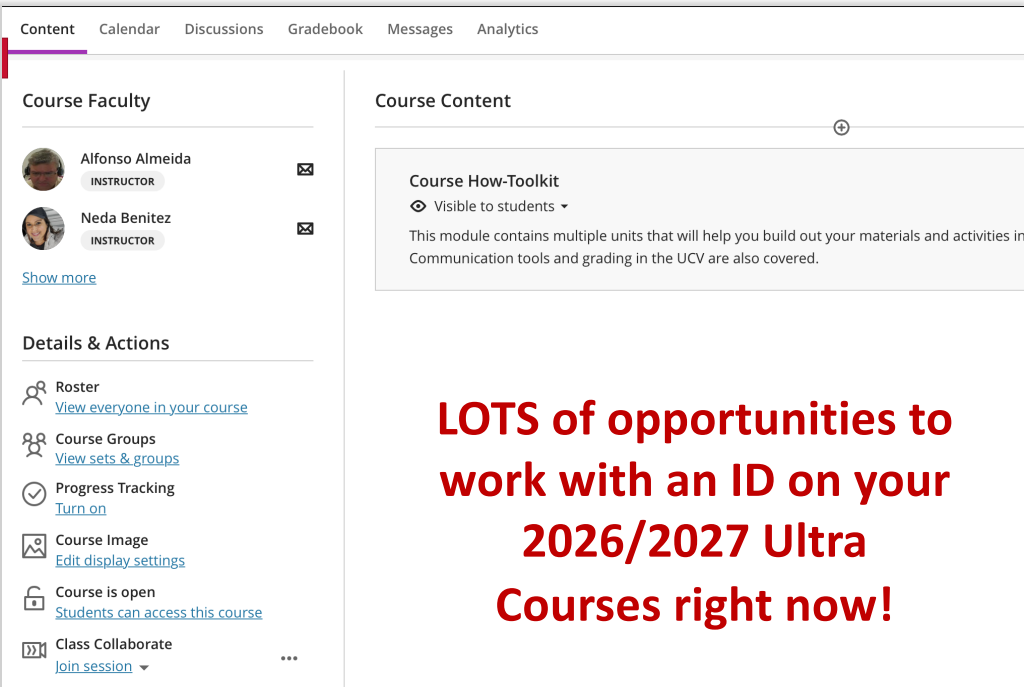
Rachel Carvajal at rcarvajal@sulross.edu

Digital Teaching How-to By Appointment:

Schedule By Appointment Bb sessions with an SHSU ID for yourself, your program, or even your entire department! (see *Tim's weekly Bb newsletter*)

You can contact me directly with any questions:

Tim Parsons - tim.parsons@sulross.edu



The screenshot displays the Blackboard course interface. At the top, navigation tabs include Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The left sidebar shows the 'Course Faculty' section with two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, each with a profile picture and an email icon. Below this is a 'Details & Actions' section with links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course is open, and Class Collaborate. The main content area is titled 'Course Content' and features a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a visibility toggle set to 'Visible to students' and a description of the module's content.

**LOTS of opportunities to
work with an ID on your
2026/2027 Ultra
Courses right now!**

SRSU Blackboard Training & Support:

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AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

SHSU-SRSU Digital Educator Certification Cohort

PERFECT for designing a 2027 spring/summer/fall Ultra course!

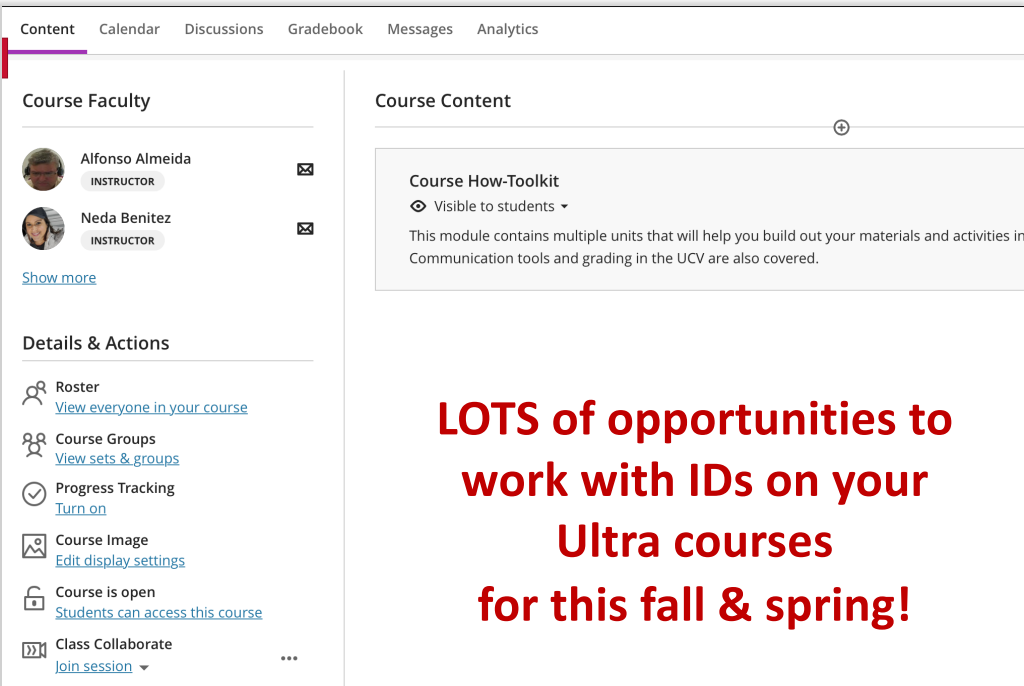
- Build organized and navigable courses that support student success.
- Apply effective instructional design principles to promote active learning.
- Foster meaningful communication and collaboration among students.
- Create multimedia-rich content that enhances engagement.
- Design assessments aligned with clear learning objectives.

FALL 2026 COHORT DATES ABOUT TO START:

The cohort will run from 09/28 to 11/13

This program is fully online and asynchronous, so interact with the course at times of the day that is convenient for you!

For more information & to enroll - see your weekly Faculty Blackboard Newsletter! **Must take BEFORE SRSU Quality Matters courses**



The screenshot displays a Blackboard course interface. At the top, navigation tabs include Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', lists two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, each with a profile picture and an 'INSTRUCTOR' label. Below this is a 'Show more' link. The right column, titled 'Course Content', shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a 'Visible to students' toggle and a description: 'This module contains multiple units that will help you build out your materials and activities in Communication tools and grading in the UCV are also covered.' Below the faculty list is a 'Details & Actions' section with links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course is open, and Class Collaborate.

LOTS of opportunities to work with IDs on your Ultra courses for this fall & spring!

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AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

NEW - Digital Educator Recertification Cohort

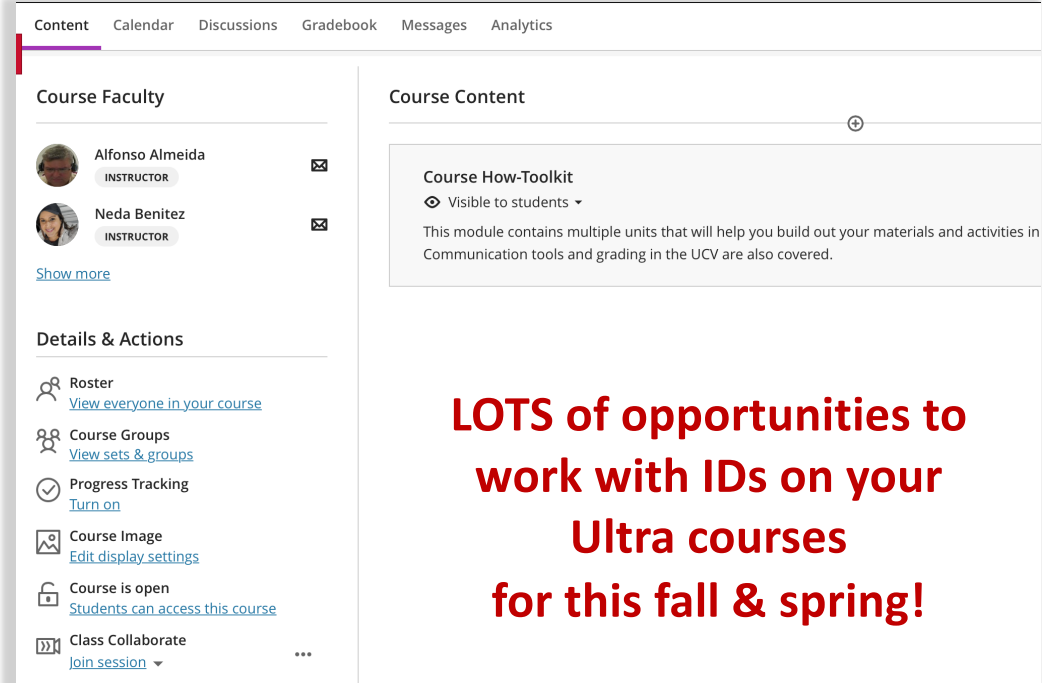
The **Digital Educator Recertification** program is designed for instructors who have earned certification to teach in an online, online-synchronous, or hybrid environment within the past three years and are seeking to renew and strengthen their digital teaching expertise.

FALL TWO-WEEK COHORT DATES:

The cohort will run from 10/02 to 10/23

This program is fully online and asynchronous, so interact with the course at times of the day that is convenient for you!

For more information & to enroll - see your weekly Faculty Blackboard Newsletter!



The screenshot shows a Blackboard course page. The top navigation bar includes links for Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', lists two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, both with 'INSTRUCTOR' roles and email icons. Below this is a 'Show more' link. The right column, titled 'Course Content', shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a 'Visible to students' toggle and a description: 'This module contains multiple units that will help you build out your materials and activities in Communication tools and grading in the UCV are also covered.' Below the faculty list is a 'Details & Actions' section with links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course open status, and Class Collaborate.

LOTS of opportunities to work with IDs on your Ultra courses for this fall & spring!

SRSU Online Instructor Training & Support:

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AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

FREE SHSU Online Digital Teaching Webinars

October Schedule Just Announced:

10/2 @ 11am Media for Instruction: Kaltura, Unsplash, and AI Images

10/7 @ 1pm Student Collaboration with Blackboard Groups **NEW**

10/8 @ 11am Blackboard's AI Design Assistant for Instructors

10/15 @ 2pm What's New in Blackboard?

10/16 @ 11am Discussions Done Right **NEW**

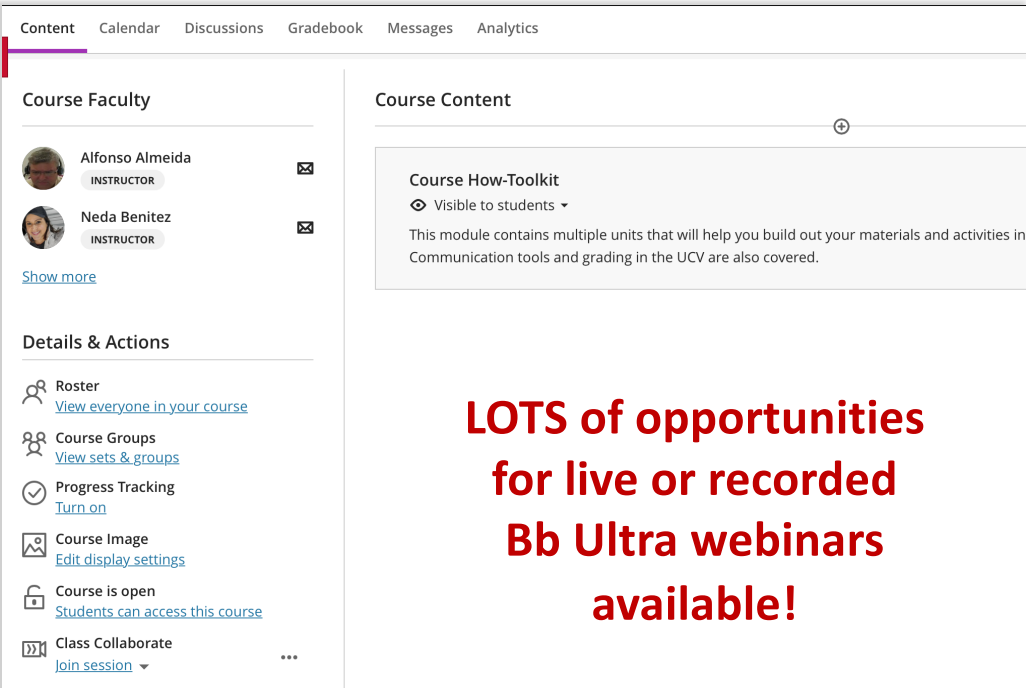
10/20 @ 1pm Gradebook Deep Dive: Weighting, Categories & Grade Schemas **NEW**

10/21 @ 2pm AI-Aware Teaching in Online Courses

10/22 @ 1pm ADA/Title II Deadline Prep **NEW**

10/27 @ 2pm Teaching Large Online Classes in Blackboard - Session 2 Assessment Efficiency and Feedback Flow **NEW**

10/30 @ 2pm Faculty Showcase: Frightfully Good Teaching



The screenshot displays the Blackboard Ultra user interface. At the top, navigation tabs include Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', lists two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, each with a profile picture and an 'INSTRUCTOR' label. Below this is a 'Show more' link. The right column, titled 'Course Content', shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a 'Visible to students' toggle and a description: 'This module contains multiple units that will help you build out your materials and activities in Communication tools and grading in the UCV are also covered.' Below the faculty list is a 'Details & Actions' section with icons and links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course is open, and Class Collaborate.

**LOTS of opportunities
for live or recorded
Bb Ultra webinars
available!**

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AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

**Ultra Resources Available in the Faculty Central
"Teaching Online with Blackboard" Organization Site**

SPOTLIGHT: In the "Ultra Webinar Recordings" folder you'll find the latest recorded SHSU Online Ultra webinars such as:

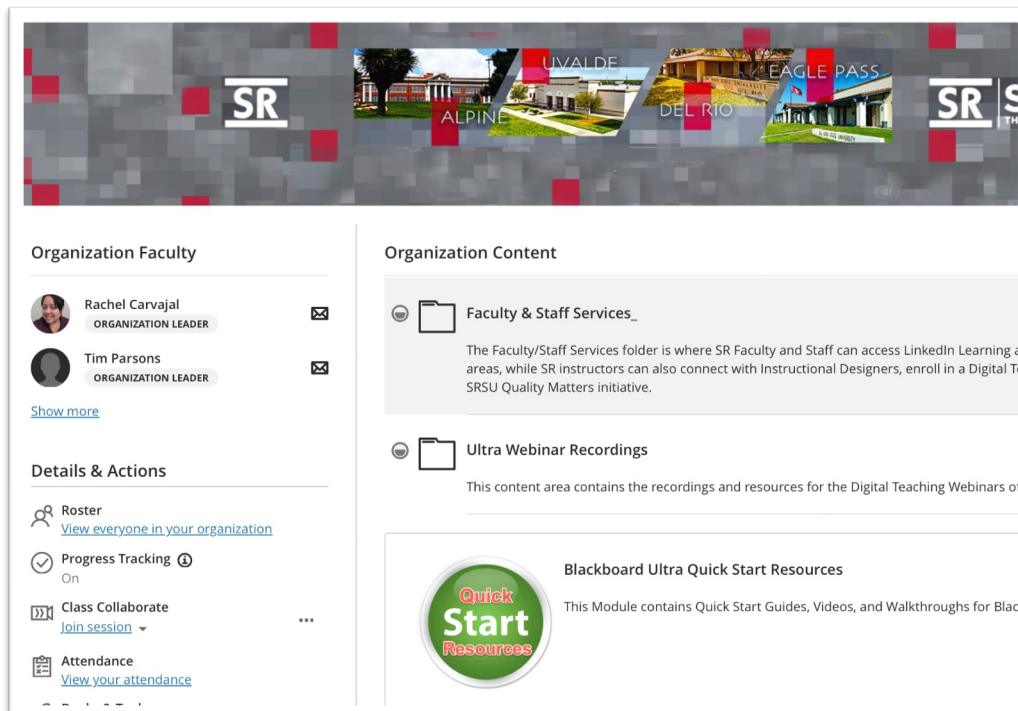
NEW - Blackboard's Updated Gradebook

NEW - What's New / 2026 Blackboard Conference Recap

NEW - Effective Assessment in the Age of AI

NEW - Enhancing Your Course with Video: Blackboard & Kaltura in Action

**LOTS of opportunities for live or recorded
Ultra webinars available!**





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Instructional Services at SRSU Update**

THANK YOU!

