

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with a series of curved, glowing lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a tunnel or a digital landscape. The lines are more prominent on the right side and fade into the dark background on the left.

Distance Education Affinity Group:  
Best Practices for Online Learning – Embracing  
our Students Educational Needs Through  
Technology

NJEdge November 17, 2016

# Panelists and Affiliations

- Dr. Leigh M. Bello-de Castro, Associate Dean- West Essex Campus and Online Education– Essex County College, Vice Chair-DEAG
- Beth Ritter- Guth, Director of Instructional Design and American Honors – Union County College, DEAG Secretary
- James Wallace, Academic Technology Coordinator – Passaic County Community College
- Norah Kerr-Mc Curry, Director-Innovation Center and Distance Education, Brookdale Community College
- Sheri Ventura, Coordinator of Distance Learning, County College of Morris

# What is the DEAG (Distance Education Affinity Group)?

The New Jersey Distance Education Affinity Group (NJDEAG) was formerly known as the New Jersey Virtual Community College Consortium (NJVCCC). It is a partnership of the State's 19 community colleges.

## Our Mission Statement

The New Jersey Distance Education Affinity Group (NJDEAG), a collegial effort involving all New Jersey Community Colleges, provides value and support through cooperative purchasing, collaborative professional development opportunities, online course quality assurance, inter-institutional communication and other initiatives.

<http://www.njvccc.cc.nj.us/>

# Question 1: Please describe the Administration and Structure of Distance Education at your Institution.

- Academic Affairs
- Information Technology
- Offers Online Degrees
- Number of courses
- Master Course Shells developed by Faculty or Generated each semester
- Publisher affiliations





## Question 2: What are the Middle States Standards for Distance Education and how is your Institution complying?

- Substantive Change Report
- Student Verification
- Standards
- Student Support Essentials
- Tutoring, Library Resources, ADA



# Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE.org)

## New MSCHE Standards

- Standard 1: Mission and Goals
- Standard 2: Ethics and Integrity
- Standard 3: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience
- Standard 4: Support of the Student Learning Experience
- Standard 5: Educational Effectiveness Administration
- Standard 6: Planning Resources and Institutional Improvement
- Standard 7: Governance, Leadership & Administration

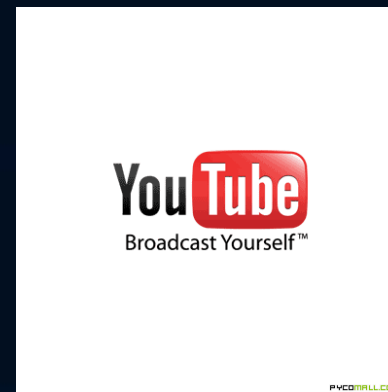
## Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations Implementation for 2015

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education, as a federally recognized accreditor, is obligated to ensure that its candidate and member institutions comply with accreditation-relevant federal regulations. This document is focused on the Commission's verification of institutional compliance in several areas:

1. Student identity verification in distance and correspondence education
2. Transfer of credit policies and articulation agreements
3. Title IV program responsibilities
4. Assignment of credit hours

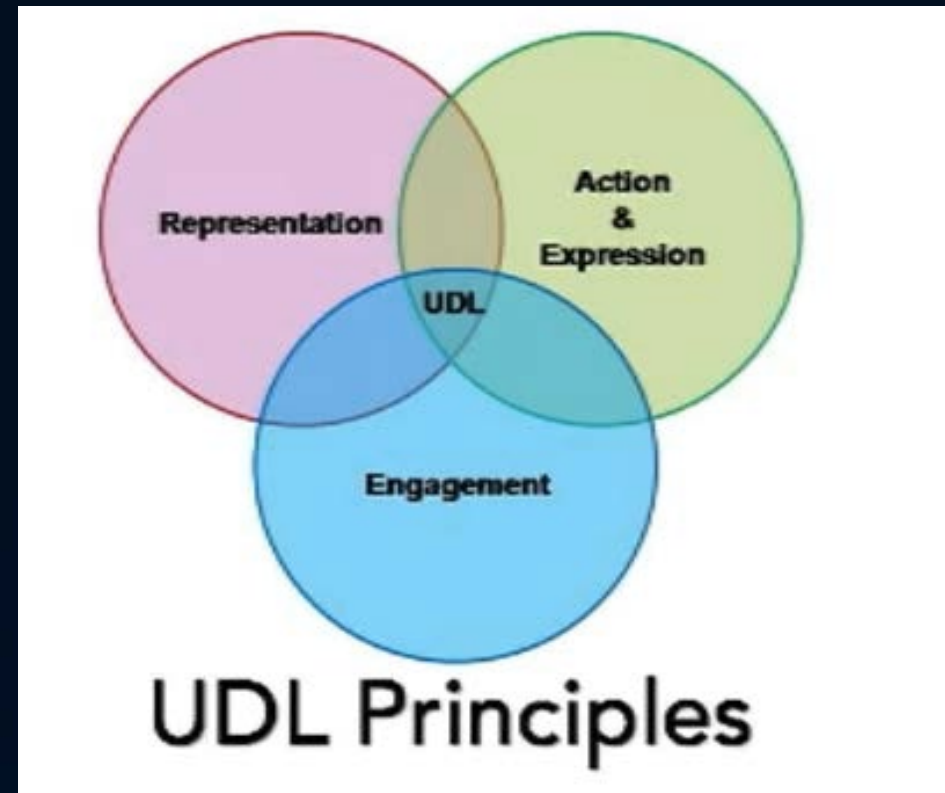
# Question 3: What are some of the Digital Resources you found helpful in developing Online Courses?

- OER (Open Educational Resources)
- Publisher based content
- Tech Smith
- YouTube
- Database support
- Universal Design



# What is Universal Design for Learning?

- The three principles of UDL:
  - Provide Multiple Means of Representation
  - Provide Multiple Means of Action and Expression
  - Provide Multiple Means of Engagement





# Universal Design for Learning

- Make education more responsive to learner differences
- Ensure benefits of education distributed equitably and effectively



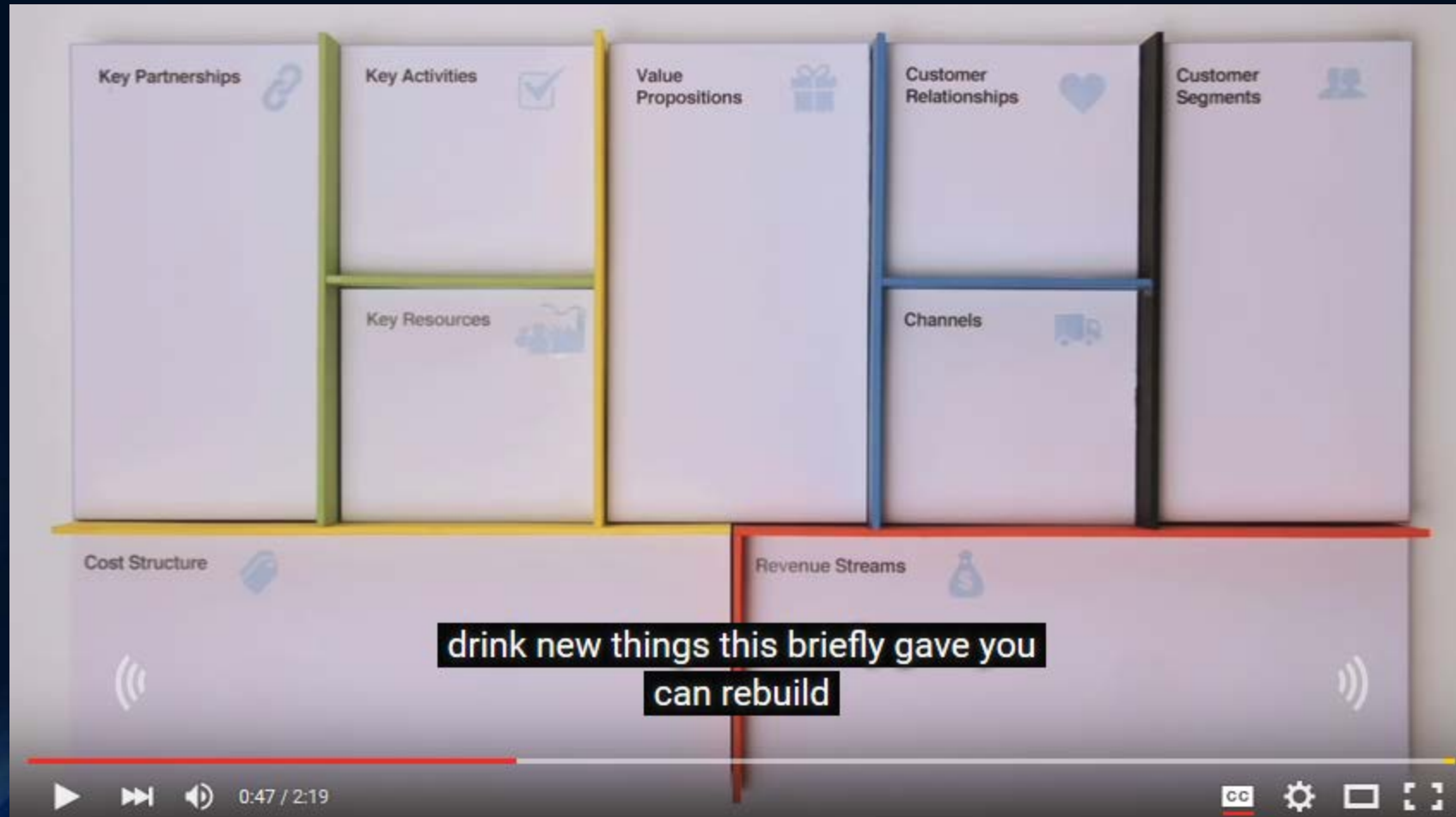
# UDL Guideline 1: Examples

- Accurate captions in media files (including YouTube)



Narrator says: "Let's briefly go through the nine building blocks."

YouTube reads: "drink new things this briefly gave you can rebuild"



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoAOzMTLP5s>

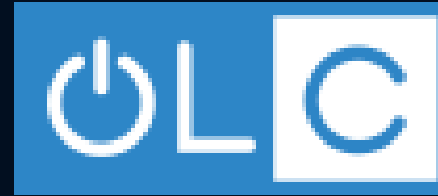
## Question 4: How do you support Student Retention and Graduation in Online Courses?

- Student Orientation: Online and In Person
- Online Advisors
- Tutoring Resources: Smart Thinking, Net Tutor, etc
- College Success Course
- Online Learning Success Test

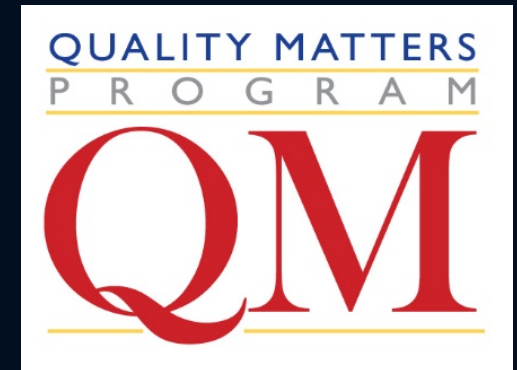


# Question 5: How do you maintain Quality and Academic Standards in your online courses?

- Quality Matters Rubric
- OLC certification
- Faculty committees
- Universal Design for Learning
  - Make education more responsive to learner differences
  - Ensures benefits of education distributed equitably and effectively
  - Essential for Some, Good for All!



ONLINE LEARNING™  
CONSORTIUM





## Question 6: How do you effectively engage student discussions and active participation in online courses?

- Ongoing Faculty Training
- Faculty engagement through discussion boards.
- Email
- Universal Design for Learning
  - Appropriate challenges and support
- Divide long-term goals into short-term objectives
- Provide feedback
- Rubrics and Assessments

Questions?????



# Thank You!!!



**Rowan College**  
at  
**BURLINGTON COUNTY**

