eCampus available on mobile devices

West Virginia University eCampus will be easier for students and faculty to access anywhere on campus beginning this fall. By downloading the new Blackboard Mobile Learn app, eCampus can be accessed on iOS and Android mobile devices.

WVU Information Technology Services, formerly WVU Office of Information Technology as of this summer, is launching the app on campus.

“Both students and faculty have long requested a mobile app, so this not only meets a customer need but also makes eCampus more convenient,” said Vicki Smith, director of communications for WVU ITS. “By downloading Blackboard Mobile Learn, users will be able to get into eCampus on their iOS and Android phones and tablets – not just laptops and desktops.”

According to Smith, Blackboard Mobile Learn is a simple, intuitive mobile application. The app gives students access to check grades and assignments, view documents, create discussion and blog posts and complete a variety of other tasks for each course. Instructors are also able to post announcements, view class rosters and more. Although, there will be some course content not available on the mobile app that is on a computer, Smith said.

“The mobile app is designed to supplement but not replace a PC or Mac,” Smith said. “Once users have downloaded the app, they can pay a one-time fee of $1.99 per device for unlimited access.”

For students, there will be no more panicking over a posted grade they can’t check or a class cancellation they missed because there isn’t a nearby computer, and for instructors, posting that last minute announcement is much more convenient.

“People live with their mobile devices these days,” Smith said. “This new app makes students’ lives easier by letting them access eCampus from the same devices they use for everything else.”

ITS will announce a formal launch date as the semester approaches and will provide details about downloading instructions when it is available.

Many may be concerned about the possibility of technology glitches or things of that nature within the app, but according to Smith, the app should function quite smoothly.

“We don’t anticipate any problems,” Smith said. “We’re currently doing final testing on the app before the official rollout.”

According to Blackboard Mobile’s website, the app is about “giving you the power to engage everyone on their terms and devices, offering instant access to the information you need and encouraging the interaction you crave, and with tools like this, we can build a better education experience for everyone, everywhere, any time.”

To learn more about the app, visit http://itnews.blogs.wvu.edu/ or http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Mobile/Overview.aspx.