


# Your Town

search

GO

[< Back to front page](#)

Text size  

ALLSTON BRIGHTON, FENWAY-KENMORE, NEWTON

## Boston College invites faculty from

ADVERTISEMENT

## Six other universities to join e-teaching initiative

Posted by Matt Rocheleau June 12, 2012 02:28 PM

[Print](#) | [Comments \(\)](#)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Boston College has invited faculty from six universities to add to a web-based application that allows professors to digitally build, organize, and present content used to teach students, according to campus officials.

### BostonShops »



Let the shopping begin. Get exclusive promotions and sales from your favorite retailers. And never miss a great deal again.

[SEE A SAMPLE](#) [SIGN UP NOW](#)

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON REAL ESTATE

After seeking proposals from across the country, BC announced this month the school has selected staff from Dartmouth College, Boston University, Bucknell University, Providence College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Clark University to participate in MediaKron, BC's proprietary digital instruction platform that the school began developing six years ago.

By expanding access to MediaKron, Boston College said in a statement it has created "the most extensive educational technology initiative in the university's history."

"As the digital world changes and evolves, so do the methods faculty use in their classrooms, labs and lecture halls on a daily basis," said a statement from Rita Owens, director of academic technology at the Chestnut Hill-based school. "MediaKron gives faculty the ability to teach using materials and online tools capable of delivering world-class content to their students. We're looking forward to partnering with these great universities as we develop new ways of

multimedia content through the platform, as they explain in a statement according to BC officials.

Some of the projects are open to the public, but most are not, and are on the password-protected Boston College portal, said Michael Wald, said.

"It's very much an internal teaching tool," he said.

A team of faculty and designers in the Instructional Design and eTeaching Services Department at Boston College developed and launched MediaKron in 2006, officials said.

At BC, the web application has grown to include 35 active projects, which are part of what administrators call a "rapidly expanding portfolio of web-based scholarship in the humanities."

Topics covered in the projects include: biology, Chinese culture, the Second Vatican Council, the art of Walt Disney studios, the death of Jesus, bilingual education, gender and religious images, the Gaelic Athletic Association, the history of public health, Irish studies, the sculptor Michelangelo, the poet Da Alighieri and the artist Albrecht Durer.

**ESTATE**

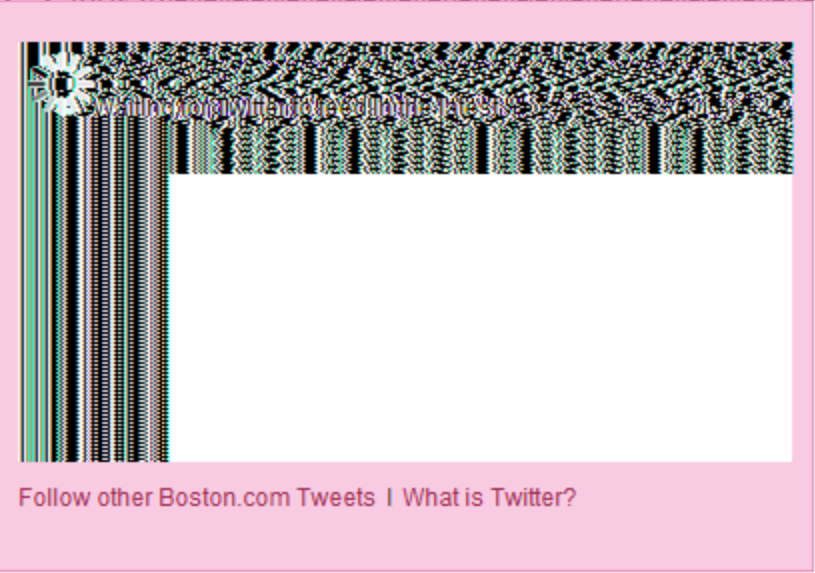
<b>86</b> Homes for sale	<b>160</b> Rentals available	<b>6</b> Open houses this week	<b>0</b> New listings this week
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

ADVERTISEMENT

SPECIAL ADVERTISER FEATURE

**insights**

**DISTEFANO HAIR RESTORATION**  
The Difference between Hair Restoration and Hair Replacement Systems



By opening up the initiative to researchers and professors at other universities, Boston College officials said they hope to expand the portfolio to include more projects across other fields and disciplines.

Development of the web application has been supported by about \$500,000 in funding through a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, which was established by Stanton Davis and his wife, Elisabeth, after he retired as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.

Earlier this spring, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced plans to team up on a \$60 million initiative to offer 100 online, college-level courses under a joint brand called as edX, the [Globe has reported](#). The move made the two schools leaders in the growing online education sector. That program, which also hopes to draw participation and content from other universities, is expected to be up and running by fall.

But, the BC spokesman said MediaKron is different. Unlike the plans for edX, MediaKron does not have an open-source approach; it is not intended to be universally accessible to anyone with Internet access.

E-learning programs like edX focus on using the web's accessibility to share education with both enrolled students and those who are not, Hayward said. Whereas MediaKron aims to specialize in using the advanced technology and tools of the web, along with the power of the application itself, to enhance how professors can teach their own students.

*E-mail Matt Rocheleau at [mjrochele@gmail.com](mailto:mjrochele@gmail.com).*

--

*For the latest Allston-Brighton updates:*

*Follow [@YourAllstonBri](#) on Twitter, [here](#).*

*And connect via Facebook by clicking the "Like" button on the top right hand corner of the Allston-Brighton homepage, [here](#).*

---

◀ Previous  
entry

Next entry ▶

