



# COOL A TOOLS

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## **SmarterMeasure**

How do you know if your students are ready to take an online class? How do they know? Too often, I think, we instructors tend to think that our students are mired in technology and therefore Blackboard will be second nature for them. This, as research has shown, is untrue. Unless you show them, your students will have the same amount of experience with an online class as they do with space travel.

One of the things we are charged with as Angelina College faculty is to promote, deliver, and expand accessible and affordable educational opportunities and services both in the classroom and through distance learning modalities.<sup>1</sup> We are unable to do this if we are unable to insure our students are ready for the online learning experience.

Angelina College uses a tool called SmarterMeasure to partly accomplish this institutional goal. SmarterMeasure is a tool which helps you determine your level of readiness for taking online or technology rich courses. This is achieved through a series of questions which not only measure your level of online class readiness, but also your learning style. The tool will send an email from Angelina College letting you or your students know about sources for support in the areas in which assistance is needed. You and your students can access SmarterMeasure by going to <http://angelina.readi.info/>.

SmarterMeasure only partly fulfills the mission of the college. Instructors who use technology in the classroom also need to mentor their students in how it is used and where they can get help if they need it. Anything less would be unfair.

If you have any questions on these or any other of Blackboard's cool tools, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Tom McKinney at extension 4522.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement of Mission of Angelina College, Goal I – ACCESS, online at <http://www.angelina.edu/generalbulletin/college-mission/>, accessed 9/13/2016.