What are Blackboard Communities?

Blackboard Communities are online environments for formal and informal organizations and clubs at the university. When a department or a center wants to use Blackboard for purposes that are not course-related, it can request a Blackboard Community. Communities have the same features for presenting information and communicating with other users that are found in academic courses and they are also managed in a similar way. Communities are fee-based and they can either be temporary or on-going entities.

Definition of Roles:

- There are a variety of user roles within a Blackboard Community, including:
    - **Organization Builder**— Has access to most areas within a Community, including the Control Panel, however, no access to participant grades or the Grade Center.
    - **Grader**— Has limited access the Control Panel, but can assist with the creation, management, delivery, and grading of assessments and surveys within a Community.
    - **Leader**— Has access to all areas within the Community. This role is generally given to those developing, teaching or facilitating the Community and is comparable to the role of Instructor.
    - **Participant**— Has no access to the Control Panel, and is the default role within a Community. This role can be compared to the role of Student in a Blackboard Course.
    - **Assistant**— Has full access to the Control Panel, but is not listed in the Community Catalog as a Leader. Can also manage (add, change, delete) membership of the organization.
    - **Guest—** Has no access to the Control Panel. Areas within the Organization can be made available to Guests. Visitors such as prospective students, alumni or parents may be given the role of Guest.