

**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 6:50 AM  
**Subject:** Learning Management System Update

Good afternoon,

We are pleased to announce that Westfield State and D2L Brightspace have signed an agreement for the adoption of D2L Brightspace as the new Westfield State University Learning Management System (LMS).

The Westfield State University community, like many other colleges and universities, must adapt to changing circumstances. We have moved into the last year of our contractual obligation with our current LMS provider, BlackBoard. At the end of our contract, BlackBoard will no longer support the current platform, BlackBoard Learn 9 Original. BlackBoard's proposed migration is to their BlackBoard Ultra platform. This proposed migration represents a significant and impactful change to the pedagogy, delivery, content creation and course conversion. This significant change necessitated an opportunity for Westfield State to explore other LMS opportunities in the market. At the request of the Chief Information Officer, in collaboration with members of the Information Technology Strategic Advisory Committee (ITSAC), the Center for Instructional Technology (CIT) began an extensive review of the three leaders in the higher education LMS market, including BlackBoard Ultra, Canvas Instructure, and Desire2Learn (D2L) Brightspace. The membership of this Committee had representation from the key stakeholders on campus, totaling 22 members including 11 faculty members, with a concentration on teaching and learning. The Review Committee's recommendation, as supported by Westfield State University's future needs, criteria, stakeholder feedback, testing and cost analysis, is to replace the current LMS with Desire (D2L) Brightspace.

A huge thank you to the LMS Review Committee. We look forward to working with all of you to make this a smooth transition. More information will be forthcoming as we move through the migration process.

The tentative timeline for campus rollout is:

• **Fall 2024**

- CIT will work with the D2L implementation team, setting up the new LMS.
- Creating course and program templates (including competency-based templates).
- Converting, archiving, and transferring Blackboard courses into D2L Brightspace.

• **December 2024 – January 2025**

- CIT will train faculty volunteers in the newly created LMS.
- Volunteers will beta test during the Spring 2025 semester and provide valuable feedback to the team.

• **Spring Semester 2025**

- Campus is still on the current BlackBoard Learn platform.

- Training continues and beta testing of D2L Brightspace occurs for an estimated 20-30 courses.
  - Training of faculty who will teach in Summer 1 & 2 will begin.
- **Summer I & II 2025**
    - Campus rollout of new LMS.
    - All Summer I & II courses will be using Brightspace.
    - Training of all remaining faculty.
- **Fall 2025 – Full campus rollout of the new LMS**