

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



LMS implementation updates, August 2022

Dear colleagues,

As the new academic year begins, we will be restarting regular updates on our progress toward adopting Instructure's Canvas as our next Learning Management System (LMS), with our efforts still being on track for a summer 2023 launch in the use of Canvas with students.

Contract finalization

In our last update of the past spring term, we shared that our contract with Canvas was still in progress, and I'm now happy to report that our contract has been finalized. The Canvas core platform and its additional features will add to our ability to support student learning and success—and we will work to highlight these capabilities in this and future communications as well as in faculty workshops and seminars.

Feature highlight: ePortfolios

One of the available features faculty and students will gain access to with the transition to Canvas is ePortfolios, with more detailed information found on the Instructure Community topic *What are ePortfolios?* (<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-ePortfolios/ta-p/1>). This feature allows students to build a unified personal collection of projects, assignments, and other signature work products from across their courses. Portfolios contextualize students' academic accomplishments through their work and highlight their capabilities across the breadth of the learning outcomes they achieved in their studies. As a result, they can be an important part of students' job search and transition into professional practice.

Migration support and consultative decision-making

In addition to our work in implementing Canvas, we are working toward providing robust course migration assistance and support—and we are collaborating with K16 Solutions, an industry-leading service provider in this space.

The LMS Advisory Council is deeply engaged in helping shape our plans in this collaboration, ensuring that this aspect of our work, and the entirety of our LMS transition efforts, is informed by faculty, reporting, and compliance needs. Members of this Council include: Shadow Armfield, Professor and Chair, Educational Specialties, College of Education; Kara Attrep, Assistant Teaching Professor, Honors College and Faculty Senate; Holly Aungst, Associate Teaching Professor and Associate Chair, Health Sciences, College of Health and Human Services; John Doherty, Head of Teaching, Learning, and Research Services; Cline Library; Laura Jones, Associate Vice President and Chief Data Officer, Strategic Planning, Institutional Research, and Analytics; Scot Raab, Associate Professor, Physical Therapy and Athletic Training and Associate Dean, College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural

Learning opportunities for faculty

Providing robust faculty learning venues is another key activity for this academic year, with one such early opportunity found in Canvas Conversations: In partnership, our Instructional Design team and the Teaching and Learning Center are offering weekly Canvas open lab sessions—for details, please see more information on the Canvas Conversations Open Labs page (<https://in.nau.edu/teaching-learning-center/canvas-updates/>). We also expect to make available self-enroll Canvas sandbox courses to faculty and staff by late-September, and will make sure to share information about these and other learning opportunities as they become available.

As always, the best way to stay informed on the LMS transition is through our information portal (<https://in.nau.edu/academic-affairs/lms-transition/>).

On behalf of the entire Office of the Provost and the LMS project team, thank you for remaining engaged in our transition to Canvas as we work to welcome our new and returning students back to their studies. Best wishes for a fantastic start to the academic year!

--

John C. Georgas
Vice Provost for Academic Operations
Northern Arizona University
vpao@nau.edu