MONTHLY BULLETIN: SUNY DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (DLE)
From the Office of Provost-in-Charge Shadi Sandvik to the SUNY Community

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Internal Planning Continues: Key Updates and a New DLE Website Designed Just for You!

Introduction

We are pleased to share the second in a series of monthly bulletins from my office about the upcoming changes to SUNY's Digital Learning Environment (DLE), this includes transition for all campuses to D2L's Brightspace Learning Management System.

** Please note that because we are still in a "restricted contract period," this bulletin and any related information are considered confidential, for SUNY employees only. **

Contract Update

We highlighted in our last bulletin that D2L's *Brightspace* was selected by SUNY in a "best value" review wherein cost was not the only factor. Usability, tools, analytics, solutions to existing challenges and anticipated future needs, and more, were all carefully considered. All vendors were notified of SUNY's selection in Spring 2021.

We wanted to make everyone aware that SUNY's current vendor has filed two protests related to this decision; however, SUNY and New York State procurement guidelines were followed to the letter and SUNY System Administration is continuing to move the contract forward.

The good news is that the contract was approved by the NYS Attorney Generals' Office on August 8, 2021. The final step in the process is review by the Office of the New York State Comptroller (OSC), which includes initial review and then time for back and forth on questions. Responses to OSC's initial set of questions have been submitted; we don't yet have a date certain when the process will conclude.

Delays in contract finalization do impact our ability to work directly with D2L on implementation and, of course, our rollout schedule. As a result, our internal planning—and our commitment to working together on this effort—is more important than ever. We are indebted to the nearly 100 campus and System staff serving on our three implementation teams and related workgroups (keep reading for more news on their work...).

As we continue to work with OSC, and as our planning in light of timing delays continues, we will keep you up-to-date. We are pleased to announce a new project website to help us do just that.

New Website

The project website, **DLE.suny.edu**, was created to keep the entire SUNY community informed about this important project. The website, launched on August 25, will be a regularly updated resource designed to give
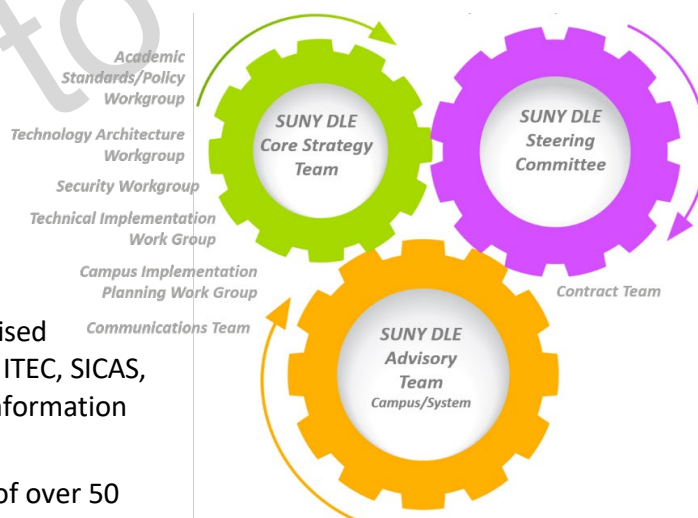
you the information you need to know. The first thing you will notice about the new site is that you must use your SUNY log-in (username and password) to access the web pages. Requiring a federated login was done for two reasons: 1) As we remain in a restricted contract period, the specific login allows us to limit access to only SUNY users; and 2) As the project progresses, much of the information posted will be details about campus transition, not necessarily of interest to those outside of SUNY!

The website currently has four sections: *Intro*, *Progress*, *FAQ*, and *Contact Us*. The *Intro* section provides the big picture overview of the project—from the selection of D2L's Brightspace to the framework for our internal planning effort, led by three implementation teams. The *Progress* section features links to monthly bulletins, status updates on the contract, and a timeline. The current timeline is reflective of the steps to date—including the RFP process. As our implementation teams begin their work, a second timeline will be added on implementation plans. We know that this is information you need and the sooner we can get it to you the better. We anticipate updating the *FAQ* web page regularly, with the first iteration featuring answers to questions received during presentations about this work.

Implementation Team Update

In our last bulletin we introduced the three implementation committees/teams:

- The SUNY DLE Steering Committee, comprised of SUNY System Administration senior staff and advised by campus senior staff as needed;

- The SUNY DLE Core Strategy Team, comprised of the project leads, Provost's Office staff, ITEC, SICAS, and the System Administration Office of Information Technology; and

- The SUNY DLE Advisory Team, comprised of over 50 campus and System staff, is the largest group.

Each team has the option of adding additional campus or System experts to serve on designated work groups. For example, the SUNY DLE Core Strategy Team, which meets weekly, just created three workgroups: academic standards; technical architecture; and security. The SUNY DLE Steering Committee formally met for the first time this week. The SUNY Digital Advisory Team will meet for the first time in mid-September. Informed by the work of all three teams, a technical implementation work group and a campus implementation planning work group will be the bridge between advisory recommendations and implementation on the ground. We will be posting updates from each team on the website, including minutes from the Advisory Team meetings, and highlighting their work in future issues of the bulletin.

New E-mail Address

Related to our work on the website is the creation of a new DLE-specific e-mail address. Questions on this project can now be directed to: DLE@suny.edu. The new email will be monitored daily.

Thank you for reading and for your engagement in this important process.