

Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees

2016-3-7

March 22, 2016

H. Neil Matkin
District President

TITLE: Approval of a Contract with Instructure, Inc. for
Subscription to Canvas Learning Management System

DISCUSSION: Canvas learning management system (LMS) is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of electronic educational technology (also called e-learning) courses or training programs.

Collin College is currently using BlackBoard as its LMS. In its current configuration BlackBoard is hosted on Collin College servers and infrastructure. Because of this, the cost of hardware (servers etc.), bandwidth, and systems administration has increased substantially and will continue to increase. For specific cost comparison and feature analysis please refer to the "BlackBoard-Canvas Comparison" document.

Moving BlackBoard from Collin College servers and infrastructure to a hosted or cloud solution is an option. However, because BlackBoard is an older application it was not designed as a cloud application and there have been reliability issues because of this. Canvas is a cloud based application and was designed from the ground up to function in a cloud environment.

Changing from BlackBoard to Canvas and a hosted or cloud solution, while more expensive to license, saves the college money by eliminating the need to operate and continually upgrade servers and infrastructure as well as personnel costs to locally administer the systems.

Moving from BlackBoard to Canvas also includes more instructional features and tools. Because Canvas is a newer system it was designed from the start to include easy and inexpensive access for mobile devices such as phones and tablets as well as use of digital video and other instructional tools (test or quiz applications among others). Older legacy systems, such as BlackBoard, were designed before the proliferation of these mobile devices and the availability of

digital video resources and many instructional applications. The result is less than optimal while Canvas seamlessly incorporates these tools into an easy to use and intuitive application that benefits both the teacher and the student.

Collin College faculty and staff have had an opportunity to not just look at Canvas but to actually use it to develop pilot courses and instruction. Their response has been clear and unambiguous. They prefer Canvas.

- Faculty reviewed three products: BlackBoard, Canvas, and Desire2Learn.
- Faculty voted 3-1 to utilize Canvas over BlackBoard.
- Members of the Council on Excellence voted unanimously to replace BlackBoard with Canvas.

In summary, moving from BlackBoard to Canvas not only allows the college to control costs but to deliver an improved and enhanced instructional experience for both its student and faculty.

The move from BlackBoard to Canvas, pending approval of this contract, is scheduled to begin with the execution of the contract April 1, 2016, and be completed in August 2016 in time for the beginning of the fall semester. The initial term of the contract is one year and includes standard renewal clauses.

**DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S
RECOMMENDATION:**

The District President recommends approval of a contract with Instructure, Inc. for subscription to the Canvas Learning Management System for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of electronic educational technology courses or training programs for the period beginning April 1, 2016, and ending March 31, 2017, with annual renewal options until March 31, 2022, at a cost not to exceed \$213,965.00.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

“Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that the Board of Trustees of Collin County Community College District approves a contract with Instructure, Inc. for subscription to Canvas Learning Management System for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of electronic educational technology courses or training programs for the period beginning April 1, 2016, and ending March 31, 2017, with annual renewal options until March 31, 2022, at a cost not to exceed \$213,965.00 in the first year.