Eastern Washington University joined forces with 34 community and vocational/technical colleges and five other four-year public universities in Washington state through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to execute a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new learning management system (LMS). The RFP process involved approximately 800 faculty and staff members from across the state in the review and product evaluation phases. The result of the RFP was an “opt in” pricing agreement with the successful vendor (Instructure, Canvas). Within two years of the RFP conclusion, all 34 of the vocational/technical community colleges and five of the six four-year institutions in Washington State had adopted Canvas as their supported LMS.

RFP Process

Since the top three vendors had been selected to move forward in the RFP, access to an installation of each was provided to all of the institutions for testing. Altogether there were more than 800 staff and faculty members from across the state that reviewed the merits of the three products. Using a standardized rubric created by the selection committee, individual institutions could rate as many of the products as warranted. This assisted in the collection of a larger pool of reviews by allowing for the variable amounts of time commitments of each individual.

One set of reviewers agreed to test the same “dozen” features in each of the three products and to provide input via a web form. Another set of reviewers completed a full review of all three products than was put on the input from individuals who provided input via a web form. More consideration was given to the collection of a larger pool of reviews by allowing for the variable amounts of time commitments of each individual.

The use of a common LMS within the state has lowered barriers to student transitions between community colleges, EWU, and other four-year institutions in WA state. Coordination of institutions has broadened from purchasing of shared systems to sharing of development materials and strategies. A major effort is currently in process to launch a new statewide technology conference, the “Building Bridges” conference, designed to help foster greater collaboration between institutions.

Key Benefits

Price leveraging
Size of test group
1 RFP

What it takes to Next Steps

Trust
Faculty Involvement
Communication

Facility

In the Works

Lecture Capture
Statewide Building Bridges Conference

Canvas Transition Year at EWU

The number of published courses in Canvas increased each quarter. During Winter Quarter, 33% of all Canvas courses were offered to students. By Spring Quarter, that percentage had risen to 57%. Currently, the total number of courses is hovering around 47%.

Total amount saved by EWU over 7 year life of contract

$690,000

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the total number of courses is hovering around 47%. By Spring Quarter, that percentage had risen to 57%. Currently, the total number of courses is hovering around 47%.

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As EWU faculty started to use Canvas more, so did EWU students. During the 2012-2013 academic year, the growth of students accessing a published Canvas course rose from 13% (5,490 students) to 77% (80,490 students).