What has happened so far?

- The contract has been signed & the planning phase has been kicked off!
- The Governance Team has been formed to make system level decisions regarding the new Learning Management System. (See page 2 for more detail)
- Campus Project Managers and Sponsors have been identified.
- Academic Planning Technology (ATP) workshops are underway:
  - What is an ATP?
    - Blackboard visits each campus for a 3-day workshop to review the currently implemented educational technologies as well as the vision, mission and goals for those technologies as they relate to student experience, instructor adoption and institution brand.
    - Deliverables from the ATP include a campus specific action plan, identified risks & challenges, and timeline for work stream, phases, training, & migration rollout dependencies.
- The 3 eColleges plan to be fully migrated by May 15, 2017 due to their current LMS license expiring June 2017.

Next Steps & Key Dates

- **November 16, 2016:** The governance team will be in Grand Forks at the System Office to make system level decisions for Blackboard. Every campus has nominated a representative to ensure equal representation.
- **November 17, 2016:** CTS will finish the system level timeline planning.
- **November 21, 2016:** The functional team has been tasked with forming a student focus group. 2 students per campus who will provide feedback on the functionality of the LMS as requested during the next few planning months.
- **November 23, 2016:** All campuses will have their ATPs scheduled
- **December 2, 2016:** All eColleges will have completed their ATPs
- **January - May 2017:** Remaining campuses will complete their ATPs
- **May 15, 2017:** All campuses ATPs are complete & action plans are in place for migration to new LMS
- **March 30, 2018:** All services delivered

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Why Blackboard and why now?

Currently all campuses are on separate LMS through 3 different providers (eCollege, Moodle & Blackboard). The eCollege licenses expire in June 2017 which brought up the opportunity to meet the board directive from January 2012, “Maximizing Results through Efficiencies”.

Between the efficiency plan and the functional consolidation of IT services as outlined in the NDCC 15-10-44.1, the chancellor determined that moving to a single LMS would be the best solution. The board supported this decision and as a result, a RFP was issued to determine the best provider for a single LMS. After looking at the overall impact to students and faculty, Blackboard was chosen due to 70% of the student and faculty population already using Blackboard (UND, NDSU, MiSU, VCSU).

This project will implement and migrate all campuses & the system to the new single instance Blackboard LMS. Anticipated benefits include improved quality of student and faculty experience, and improved student retention. The single instance LMS provide effective and efficient delivery of instructional and administrative services.

Ongoing funding of Blackboard will be sought from the Legislature. For now, campuses & NDUS have been asked to budget for their existing LMS costs for the 2017-2019 biennium.

When & where can I find the next newsletter?

- Find the newsletter on the CTS website under current initiatives (http://cts.ndus.edu/current-initiatives/)
- Look for it on December 16, 2016
- Check out the website for other project specific documents