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IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

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This team is the driving force behind the implementation of the new Learning Management System. The **faculty driven** team will meet weekly until the task is complete. Any questions, ideas or concerns may be directed to any member of the team.

Exploring LMS Opportunities (LMS) Learning Management System

Oligopoly

The Learning Management System, (LMS) market is dominated by Blackboard as it owns 80% of the market share. This explains why we called CE 6 "Blackboard" even though it was a WebCT upgrade. The term Blackboard could refer to Blackboard Academic Suite, Blackboard Basic, Blackboard Enterprise, Campus Edition 6.0 and Vista. (If you are actually reading this, please email Claudie Biggers to have your name entered into a prize drawing). To confuse things further, open source LMS offers license-free software, such as Moodle and Sakai, which is available for anyone to download. There are approximately 12 viable LMS sources that could meet the needs of Amarillo College. The viable options include Blackboard, Desire2Learn, Angel, eCollege, Moodle, Sakai, A Tutor and Campus Cruiser. It is the job of the Implementation team to screen all options and find the best solution for AC.

Time Line

Between March 3 & 14 vendors will provided Web demonstrations.

Mar. 17 - Apr. 4 develop Request for Proposal (RFP)

Apr. 7 RFP will be "on the street" for vendors.

Apr. 29 Final date for vendor's proposals to come to the college.

May 12 - 29 Vendors interviews/demonstrations with "sandbox" capabilities.

May 30 Selection of vendor determined with the option to extend the selection of vendors if more time is needed.

May 31 EduServe contract completed.



Amarillo College

Volunteer Trainers

Kudos to all volunteers who stepped up to the request for LMS trainers. Just because the training has been delayed does not mean we do not want your help. Our goal is to train the trainers then the trainers train the untrained faculty. (I bet you reread that sentence!) So if you volunteered, please be prepared to be contacted some time in the near future.



Webster vs. WebEd

LMS conversion may become a common practice at Amarillo College. The constant technological changes and the competitive market will promote continuous improvement. Branding the LMS is the solution to creating some consistency with name recognition. The suggested names for branding were Webster and WebEd, coupled with the badger icon. Either name would remain consistent with the Amarillo College online classroom. The name Webster was selected because of its Himalayan grasshopper origin. Seriously, it was chosen because of ease of advertisement and promotion. WebEd was suggested because we needed a choice. No rocket science here.

Q&A With Techno Geek

Dear Techno Geek,

My wife teaches online courses for a local college. The college is changing the current LMS and my wife spends all of her time in training and course conversions. She walks around like a crazed woman. I really miss her cooking and I was wondering if I will ever eat again?

Sincerely, LMS Widower

Dear LMS Widower,

This is such a misfortunate situation. I suggest you be very patient with your wife and learn how to cook. You may even go as far as preparing a bubble bath for her. LMS training is important and with the proper knowledge of the entire conversion process will be shortened. Remind your wife to backup all of her course work onto her desktop.

Dear Techno Geek,

I need your help, I am suffering from PreLMS Syndrome because my college has decided to change our current LMS. Computer technology is very difficult for me and I'm worried about the conversion.

Sincerely, LMS Junky

Dear LMS Junky,

It is going to be ok. I am sure most faculty share your same feelings and concerns. It is in the best interest of your institution to provide a training opportunity for everyone. The ideal situation would be an ongoing training scenario that meets all learning styles. It is a known fact that training is the key to success to all online courses. Keep an eye open for available training and be patient. There is a techno savvy person inside of you just waiting to get out.

Dear Techno Geek,

I am finding it hard to be faithful to just one LMS (learning management system). I am a college professor and my school cannot decide on an LMS. I keep having lustful thoughts about communication tools and content modules. I fear I am becoming mentally promiscuous. I really want to commit to one system but they all look so good.
Sincerely, Failure to Launch

Dear Failure to Launch,

I understand your frustrations; the LMS market is full of very attractive LMS systems. This is a decision that should not be taken lightly as there are many factors to consider before committing to just one LMS. It sounds like you need the help of an implementation team that will help look at all of your choices.