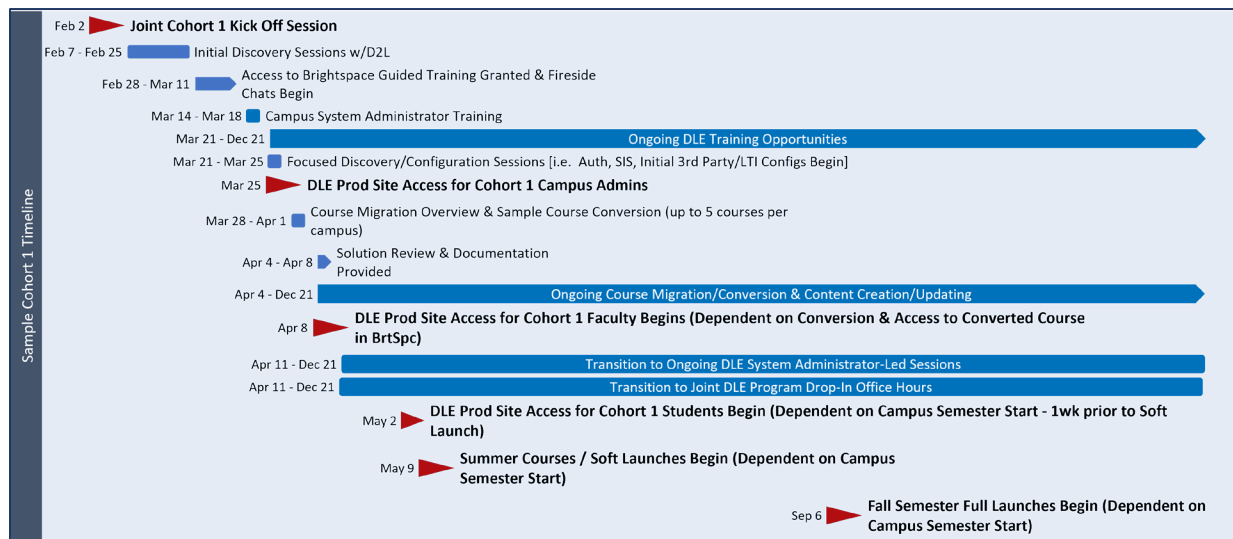February/March 2022: Volume 2, Issue 2

Transition to the New DLE is Underway!

Cohort 1 Launches

On February 2, over 170 representatives from the 30 campuses that comprise Cohort 1—the first grouping of campuses to begin the transition to SUNY's new Digital Learning Environment—participated in a virtual kick-off meeting. The respective project teams from SUNY System Administration and D2L were introduced, and an initial schedule of activities was shared and later refined.

Each cohort will move through a multi-month process that involves academic and technical planning, training, testing, and piloting before all of its courses/activities are live in the production environment. The shared schedule, pictured below with the main categories highlighted, is marked as "sample" because it is understood that some campuses may move at a slightly different pace; this is why the estimated time for completion of each cohort is a range between 11 and 13 months.

Kim Scalzo, Interim Executive Director of Academic Technologies & Information Services, credited the ongoing work of the broader SUNY DLE project teams for timely decisions that allowed for a more detailed campus level timeline. Highlights include:

• Additional detail around training activities with options for campuses and faculty to engage based on individual campus needs throughout the implementation period and in time to meet deliverables for implementation;

• Additional details around discovery, solution review, and student/faculty access to the DLE Production site access to help inform campus planning timelines and resource allocation; and

• Additional details on where the SUNY DLE team will augment D2L implementation support resources, to ensure continuity beyond the initial planning and implementation.

Timeline activities range from initial discovery and broad training, to focused discovery sessions and configurations, access to the production environment for campus administrators, and sample course conversions. This initial work will be followed by broader course migration and access to the production site. For Cohort 1 campuses, a soft launch is envisioned for this summer.

Shortly after the kick-off, Cohort 1 campuses had the opportunity to identify specific areas—from implementation of the Global ID to communications—where they may need additional supports so that individual project teams can be informed. As of this writing, coordinated teams of D2L Project Managers, D2L Implementation Specialists, and SUNY DLE System Administrators are all actively engaged with individual campus teams.

Harry Cargile, Director of Academic Technology Strategy & Integration, SUNY Online, said that the engagement from campuses in Cohort 1 has been outstanding. "We have so many experienced and talented individuals on our campuses who are working tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition to the new DLE. My thanks to them for their leadership, for bringing good questions and ideas to the forefront, and for their willingness to work collaboratively with SUNY System and D2L on this important effort."

Campuses Named for Cohorts 2-4

Campuses for the remaining Cohorts 2-4 have also been named. The second cohort will run from May 2022 to April 2023; the third from September 2022 through August of 2023; and the fourth from January 2023 to December 2023.

Cohort 1:

- SUNY Adirondack
- Alfred State
- SUNY Brockport
- SUNY Canton
- Columbia-Green Community College
- Corning Community College
- SUNY Downstate
- Empire State College
- Erie Community College
- Farmingdale State
- Finger Lakes Community College
- Fulton-Montgomery Community College
- Genesee Community College
- Herkimer County Community College
- Jamestown Community College
- Monroe Community College
- SUNY New Paltz
- Niagara County Community College
- SUNY Old Westbury
- Onondaga Community College
- Orange County Community College
- SUNY Oswego
- SUNY Potsdam
- Schenectady County Community College
- Stony Brook University
- Suffolk County Community College
- Sullivan County Community College
- Tompkins Cortland Community College
- Upstate Medical
- Westchester Community College

Cohort 2:

- Broome Community College
- SUNY Buffalo State
- SUNY Cortland
- Dutchess Community College

- SUNY Maritime College
- SUNY Oneonta
- SUNY Plattsburgh
- Rockland Community College

Cohort 3:
- University at Albany
- Cayuga Community College
- SUNY Delhi
- SUNY FIT
- SUNY Fredonia
- SUNY Geneseo
- Hudson Valley Community College
- SUNY Morrisville
- North Country Community College
- Purchase College
- Ulster County Community College

Cohort 4:
- Clinton Community College
- SUNY Cobleskill
- SUNY Jefferson Community College
- Mohawk Valley Community College
- Nassau Community College
- SUNY College of Optometry
- SUNY Polytechnic Institute

Training Options are Defined

Also announced was progress on related training for all those involved in the new DLE. Jamie Heron, SUNY Online Program Manager at SUNY's Center for Professional Development, is coordinating the training program with the help of nearly 50 campus volunteers who make up the Training Workgroup.

She explained that the focus is on flexibility, with training options being developed in multiple formats—online modules to follow at your own pace, scaled webinars with live training for larger groups, and remote live workshops for smaller groups.

There is also a guide to recommended training based on an individual's comfort level with new technology.

To detail available options and also to highlight a few interesting and time-saving Brightspace features, Jamie has started a series of virtual Fireside Chats. The first, held February 23, drew over 250 attendees. The recording is available on the DLE website: https://dle.suny.edu/fireside-chats/.

Registration for future chats here: https://dle.suny.edu/fireside-chats/.

Some Fireside Chat Attendees Before the S'mores were served!

DLE Tools

A number of you have asked about next steps regarding the Tools Survey you completed. Upon review of all responses, it was clear that tools related to accessibility and plagiarism were the highest priority; with significant interest for a single option, State-wide contract. The goal is to have options for both in place by summer 2022.

Conferencing, publishers, OER, and video/media were also identified as important but with multiple vendors. Conferencing needs may be addressed by Brightspace's native "virtual classroom" tool and the team will review this and other options. The Campus Implementation Planning team is looking more broadly at the functional requirements for video/media support across the system and will be recommending a long-term solution.

Any tools selected will need to be accessible to students with disabilities and align with cybersecurity standards. All potential tools are being reviewed against these standards.

Student Information System Integration

The SUNY High Speed Data Rail (HSDR) API's (MuleSoft) Platform will be made available to all campuses in order to facilitate the data transfer into the SUNY DLE solution & SUNY Data Hub. The base data for the data transfer will be department, course template, course offerings, user, enrollments, semester, section, & other data with the ability to expand in the future.

The SICAS Center is developing a process that will be used to move course, enrollment, and instructor information from Banner to the DLE using the intermediary SUNY HSDR API's (MuleSoft) Platform. The SICAS process will allow for flexibility in scheduling and data selection. Views will be provided to show what data has been transmitted and when.

The current development plan is to have the process collect the required set of data elements for the pilot period. Campuses are supplying additional data elements in their campus meetings. Those elements will be vetted by the SUNY DLE Advisory Team and the approved elements will be added to MuleSoft and the SICAS process, in time for the Fall semester.

All non-banner campuses should look to develop data extracts that can integrate with SUNY HSDR API's (MuleSoft) Platform. SUNY System will be available to meet with campuses to answer questions and review data requirements.

Engagements

We continue to work to ensure effective communication around this work with project leads giving numerous update presentations. Close to 950 individuals attended DLE presentations during the month of February, and March events are already on the calendar:

Date	Audience/Topic
2/1	SUNY Council on Assessments
2/1	SUNY Chief Information Officers
2/2	DLE Cohort 1 Kickoff
2/4	FACT2 Council
2/8	Online Teaching Community of Practice
2/8	SUNY Council on Assessments
2/9	UFS/FCCC Presidents
2/18	Early Alerts Community of Practice
2/18	DLE Advisory Team
2/23	LMS Admins Meeting
2/23	DOODLE Meeting
2/23	Fireside Chat
2/24	SUNY Online Degrees at Scale IR & Registrars

Date	Audience/Topic
3/1	SUNY Chief Academic Officers
3/2	SUNY Online Summit
3/8	Online Teaching CoP
3/11	Early Alerts CoP
3/11	SUNY Chief Academic Officers Executive Committee
3/16	Disability Services Directors and EIT Officers
3/17	Campuses that currently have MOODLE
3/22	Conversations with Program Reviewers (CPR)
3/24	SUNY Council of Chief Information Officers
3/25	DOODLE Meeting
3/25	UFS/FCCC Presidents
3/30	Campus LMS Administrators

Thank you for reading and for your continued engagement in this important process!

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