



Dear Colleagues:

It's midterm week, and we all want to see our students succeed. Students succeed when they are engaged with an informed, connected, and campus community. This is our responsibility as an institution of higher education.

STUDENT SUCCESS STARFISH 

This issue focuses on Starfish an academic advising software integrated into Blackboard, and how it is being used as a supportive tool for student success. Find out what Starfish is all about, who is using it and why, and how our concerted efforts can assist with increasing student satisfaction and retention. Also, see an innovative Simple Syllabus template used as an advising tool.

From,
The Office of Instructional Technology, Design, & Assessment (ITDA)



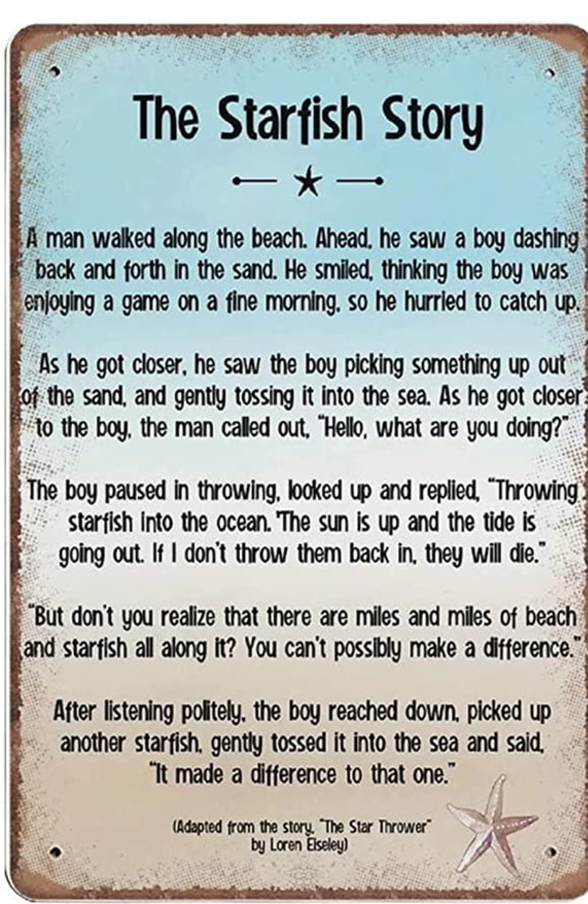
Do you know Starfish?

The Starfish advising software platform brings insight into student data and allows campuses to take action and serve students proactively.

Whether it be submitting a flag as an early warning alert for a student who is falling behind or Kudo for a student who is excelling, this advising software brings a community together for student support academically.

It could take only just one intervention to make a big difference in a student's academic journey.

Read the Starfish Story.
Will you be like the boy on the beach?
Who will be your Starfish?



**From the Desk of Cynthia Rutz, Director
Valparaiso Institute for Teaching and Learning (VITAL)**

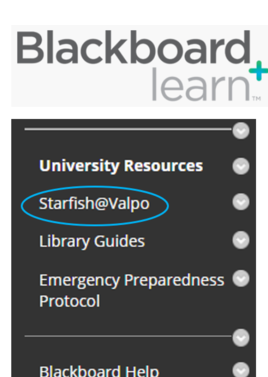
Using Starfish to Help your Students Succeed

Starfish is one of Valpo's primary retention tools. Used properly, it lets both students and advisors know early on when a student is struggling in their class. Yet many faculty don't use Starfish at all or don't take full advantage of its features. In this article, *student advisors Laura Sanders and Janneal Gifford* talk about how to make the best use of Starfish to help students succeed in your class.

Read the Full Article Here: [Using Starfish to Help Your Students Succeed](#)

Where to find Starfish?

The Starfish advising tool is easy to use and available within your Blackboard courses. With one click it can be used throughout the semester as needed to ensure students are connected to you and academic advisors for interventions. To learn more about how it works at VALPO and the STARFISH SEVEN, click [here](#).



What do instructors like about Starfish?

"I find most useful is the flagging system, through which I can signal to advisors about students who stop attending or do not submit work. It can be difficult communicating to students even when speaking to them face-to-face; it's good to be able to

recruit help!"

Scott Guffey (English)

"I use it mainly for two tasks: tracking and reporting student progress and managing my office hours and meetings with students. I consider Starfish very handy and straightforward. I also like how Starfish and Blackboard complement each other as tools for pedagogy and communication."

Liao Zhang (History)

An Advising Syllabus?

Janneal Gifford is an Academic Advisor for the Department of College/Nursing&Health Professions (CONHP.) When she saw Mike Tyler, Associate Provost of Graduate and Online Education, demonstrate Simple Syllabus, she knew that she wanted to use this technology tool to share her academic advising syllabus with students. To view her innovative Simple Syllabus, click [here](#).



"Revising my syllabus is easy, the required syllabus elements update automatically with policy changes, and it includes a direct link for students to access Starfish. My primary goal for adopting Simple Syllabus for academic advising is to better serve students, and know that they can easily access it via mobile, web, and print making it more accessible for all of us."

For assistance with setting up your Simple Syllabus for your courses, submit requests to: helpdesk@valpo.edu.



**INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN & ASSESSMENT (ITDA)
SUBMIT A REQUEST HERE FOR ASSISTANCE**