Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the last CITAL newsletter of the year! It doesn't seem like it has been that long since we began this journey together. Over the last 12 months, we have seen the continued rise of Artificial Intelligence, launched a search for a new Learning Management System, and implemented Simple Syllabus just to name a few items. We have also welcomed new and returning faculty with orientations, workshops, and many professional development opportunities. In this edition of the newsletter, we are highlighting upcoming items, and providing additional resources as you begin to think about your new classes after the break. Thank you for your continued engagement and support. Have a very happy holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

The CITAL Team (Ed, Gina, and Cindy)

Maximizing Blackboard: Learning Integrations

By: Ed Finn, Executive Director

Blackboard is a complex system that interfaces with other campus technologies to help support the faculty and student experience. However, not all of these integrations are apparent or used by faculty as they design and create courses. That is where CITAL comes in. In this blog post, we will examine some of the tools available and provide resources for faculty to better integrate teaching and learning technologies into their Blackboard sites.

Read More

Some past CITAL blog posts that you might find useful at this time in the semester:

[What to do for the Last Week of Class](#)

[Simplify Your Grading in Blackboard](#)

Student Evaluation Survey Reminder

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and CITAL are asking for faculty to help gather important information about the student experience at Valpo by allowing students in-class time to complete two surveys. The **End of Course Evaluations** and a **Simple Syllabus Survey** have been sent to students individually, with the *End of Course Evaluations* also available via a Blackboard link. If you can find time in your busy classroom schedules to allow for students to complete the surveys, it would be greatly appreciated. **Both surveys are available until 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 10th**. Thank you in advance for helping us make the student experience even better.

Get a Head Start on Your 2024 Spring Semester Classes

**Click on the images below for access to instructor resources,
help, how-to articles & videos.**

Simple Syllabus will be updated in Mid-January 2024
Valpo is currently using the "Original View" version and will update to the "New View" after the semester starts in January. You'll want to check out the "New View" now to be ready for the spring transition. For all Spring 2 classes only the "New View" will be available.

WATCH IT: "Meet the New View" video (23 minutes, password: simple)
TRY IT: See the article here for instructions on how you can try out the "New View" now.

Blackboard will be changing significantly starting in fall 2025.

Valpo is considering three LMS options.

Testing is now underway to determine which LMS will be best for us.

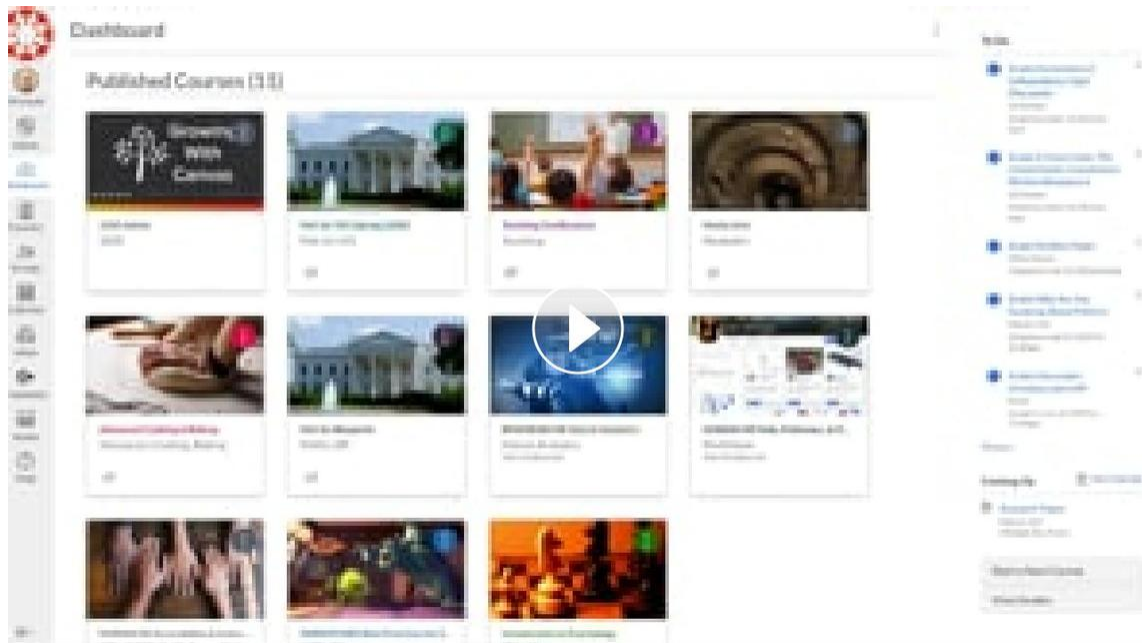*Don't miss your chance to have a voice in making that decision.*

Click on this link to request & participate in the LMS Sandbox trials and evaluation period.
LMS Sandbox Request Form

Campus Visit: In Case You Missed It

Representatives from Blackboard Ultra and Canvas, two of our three LMS options, were on campus in November. They provided faculty with a short presentation and demo about the features of their systems and were available to answer any questions. Both have provided a shortened version of their presentation below. Please feel free to reach out to **CITAL@valpo.edu** with any questions.

Visit the CITAL Website, Your One-Stop-Shop for Faculty Resources

Submit a CITAL Helpdesk Ticket

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

219.464.5000 - 1700 CHAPEL DRIVE, VALPARAISO, IN 46383-6493 USA - valpo.edu