OHIO UNIVERSITY

Office of Information Technology

IT Weekly Newsletter
December 13, 2023

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the **wuit@ohio.edu** shared mailbox. Follow these **instructions** to add a shared mailbox to
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Announcing Search for Senior Director Positions

The following message is from Chris Ament, OHIO's Chief Information Officer

Dear OHIO IT,

I'm excited to share an update on the search for the two Senior Director positions created in

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competitive search process. These positions will be posted in the coming weeks, and any qualified candidate is encouraged to apply.

I have asked the following team members to lead the searches:

- **Leigh Casal**, IT Project Manager III, will chair the search committee for the Senior Director for Digital Enablement position.
- **Tracy Kitts**, IT Product Manager, will chair the search committee for the Senior Director for Digital Workspace position.

Choosing the right people to join our team is among the most important decisions we are faced with. Both Leigh and Tracy are committed to leading a fair, transparent, and efficient search process that is inclusive of diverse perspectives and provides opportunities for broad engagement across our organization. They will each be reaching out to individuals to join the respective search committees.

More information about the search process including committee representation and timeline will be shared soon. In the meantime, I encourage you to reach out to **Leigh** or **Tracy** if you have any questions or suggestions.

–Chris Ament, Chief Information Officer

Phase 1 Canvas Migration Focuses on Ongoing Improvement and Student Feedback

Ohio University is set to launch its inaugural courses in **Canvas**, our newly adopted Learning Management System (LMS), for the spring 2024 semester. A cohort of over 50 dedicated instructors, overseeing approximately 125 courses, has enthusiastically volunteered to participate in "Phase 1" of our migration to Canvas. These educators have committed to collaborating with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Office of Instructional Design (OID), and the Center for Teaching, Learning, & Assessment (CTLA) to provide ongoing feedback throughout the semester. This collaborative effort aims to enhance and fine-tune support and training resources for subsequent phases of the migration.

Furthermore, feedback mechanisms involving surveys and focus groups will be implemented throughout the semester to garner insights from Phase 1 students. The insights collected will play a pivotal role in refining the overall student experience in Canvas. Additionally, all Phase 1 students and faculty will have access to 24/7 Canvas support to ensure their success.

Up next, the LMS team, in tandem with the Provost's Office, is working to formulate migration plans beyond Phase 1, in collaboration with colleges. Once these plans are finalized, we will publish detailed migration timelines. Additionally, we're working to make Canvas available to Phase 1 students in the Go OHIO app prior to the spring semester start date.

Finally, we want to acknowledge a significant milestone recently achieved in the LMS implementation: the successful completion of the technical setup of Canvas. The system is now prepared for faculty and students, both in terms of setup and configuration.

"I express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to this endeavor. Setting up a major system in just four months, alongside overseeing faculty testers, managing campus expectations, and adhering to an inclusive stakeholder engagement process, is no small feat. Kudos to all of you!" said **Eszti Major-Rohrer**, Senior Director for Teaching & Learning

If you have any questions about the LMS implementation project, please reach out to the LMS Product Manager, Lindsey Ward, or join the **Teaching & Learning Technologies Advisory Community** for frequent updates.

Updates from the Teaching & Learning Tools Product

Attendance Tracking and Student Response System Update

A contract has been signed and the award process concluded. Top Hat was selected as the vendor to support the student response system and attendance needs of the university. A campus announcement will be coming soon.

Blackboard Integration Updates

To ensure a seamless experience for instructors relying on Blackboard, we are increasing support to address the expiration of frequently used integrations. Our commitment is to provide uninterrupted access and support during this transition phase. For more information, please visit **Blackboard Integration Updates**.

Thank you everyone who has volunteered to help support our faculty in the spring!

Empowering AI: A Strengths-Based Approach to Inclusive Design for Diverse Users

*In support of the University's **Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan** and OIT's **complementary D&I goals**, the IT Weekly will feature regular tips to **improve digital accessibility** in the work we do. These tips are brought to you by the Digital Accessibility team.*

For this week's tip, please take a look at an **article from UX Psychology** which explores the creation of inclusive artificial intelligence (AI) systems by adopting a strengths-based approach to accessible design.

It dives into the differences between deficit-based and strengths-based perspectives on disability within the realm of designing intelligent systems. While the deficit-based approach sees disabilities as inherent limitations in individuals, focusing on fixing or compensating for these deficits, the strengths-based approach views disability as a product of societal barriers, emphasizing the importance of leveraging unique abilities and experiences.

The article introduces crucial frameworks such as Universal Design, Ability-Based Design, and Design for User Empowerment, offering proactive strategies to address diverse needs, tailor interfaces, and enhance user independence through intentional design decisions. It also highlights methodological considerations for human-centered design research, emphasizing the advantages of qualitative methods like interviews and co-design sessions over quantitative approaches.

The key takeaway underscores the significance of an inclusive, flexible, and reflexive approach in shaping intelligent systems that empower diverse users, ultimately fostering more human-centered interactions.

We encourage you to read the entire article on **Creating Inclusive AI by UX Psychology**.

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Have a suggestion for a topic, guest speaker, or OHIO IT Win?
Submit your recommendation.

IT in the News

- **Information for OHIO students on Fall 2023 course, instructor evaluations**
- **OIT recommends top tips to safely shop online this holiday season**

Upcoming Events

01/17

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The **Teaching and Learning Technologies Advisory Community** is open to OHIO students, faculty, and staff who have an interest in teaching and learning technologies. The Advisory Community is having a meeting on January 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Event Link

HR Updates

If you have an upcoming job posting that your department would like considered for publication in the IT Weekly, please **submit a ticket** to the service desk. Include the following phrase in the ticket title: *Job posting for the IT Weekly.* Please allow up to one week for publication.

Job Postings

- **Student Technician for Conference and Event Services**

Life Events, Celebrations & Congratulations!

Adoption

Rebecca Vickers (Teaching and Learning Support) welcomed Kurstan Vickers into her family on November 14. Kurstan celebrates her adoption surrounded by her new family.

New Baby

Dakota Harrison Dills was born to **Scott and Valarie Dills** at 3:18 a.m. on November 23, Thanksgiving Day, exactly 45 years after Scott's birthday on the same date/holiday at 7lbs 9oz. The baby also arrived on his exact due date, which occurs in less than 5% of all births! The family is adapting well to their new life.

Ask the ITLT

There are either no new questions and/or questions still pending review.

Use this anonymous **Microsoft form** to ask the ITLT a question or send feedback. You can also suggest a topic or guest speaker for a future OHIO IT updates meeting via **this form**. Depending on how many responses come in, we might not be able to process them all immediately, or we might combine multiple questions into a single answer.

ITLT Office Hours

To view ITLT members' office hours, visit the **ITLT Office Hours shared calendar**.

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To meet with an ITLT member during their office hours, send that member a Teams direct message. Such messages will be responded to on a first-come, first-served basis, typically with an offer to coordinate a video call.

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