

New Mexico State University will be adopting Instructure Canvas to replace Blackboard CE8 as the university learning management system (LMS). The LMS software application is designed to manage online classroom activities and includes functionality such as a learning repository for course content, assignments, discussion boards, messaging, assessment, grades, and communications between faculty and students.

The University's approval of Canvas was based on a recommendation of the Learning Management System (LMS) Task Force. The LMS Task Force was charged with recommending a Learning Management System to replace the current system (Bb CE8) which will no longer be supported by Blackboard effective January 2013. The task force was comprised of NMSU faculty, students, learning specialists, and technology administrators from the Las Cruces and Community College campuses.

The selection follows NMSU's comprehensive evaluation of commercial and open source learning management systems that included feedback from students, staff, and faculty members. Following the yearlong comprehensive process, the Task Force conducted on-site vendor demonstrations that were broadcast to all campus locations. Feedback from participants noted the intuitive interface of Canvas and its superior ease of use features including speed grading, deployment of multimedia, and the integration of social media tools.

All courses currently using Bb CE8 will be migrated to Canvas during the Spring 2012 semester. Bb CE8 will not be available after the 2012 Spring Session. More information about the transition plan, including specific support for NMSU students and educators, will be available during the 2011 Fall semester. For more information about Instructure Canvas and the NMSU migration, go to learning.nmsu.edu/canvas.