

Dear Colleagues,

We're writing to announce two upcoming changes to Saint Louis University's Blackboard course management system.

First, we have begun the process of upgrading to the new version of Blackboard (Blackboard Learn 9), which will be referred to throughout the University as ***SLU Global***. Our current Blackboard CE 8 system is being phased out by Blackboard; the company is no longer offering any "bug" fixes or upgrades, and they have discontinued much of their technical support of the CE 8 version. In short, because we want to successfully use and expand the capabilities of Blackboard for faculty and students, we need to upgrade.

Second, we're excited to report that we'll be administering Blackboard/***SLU Global*** "in house" here at SLU – meaning we'll have more control over the functionality, and we'll be able to improve technical support and reliability.

Here are a few additional details about the transition to ***SLU Global*** you need to know:

- **The current version of Blackboard will be taken offline by June 30; all work in courses running on the current system needs to be completed prior to June 30.**
- **All Spring 2010 courses that end after June 30 will be established on the new *SLU Global* system.**
- **All Summer 2010 courses (including May/Intersession term courses) will be established on the new *SLU Global* system.**

The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) will offer a full slate of ***SLU Global*** training sessions beginning in March 2010. In the meantime, the campus Blackboard Users Group will host two demonstrations of ***SLU Global*** in February, giving faculty the opportunity to ask questions and plan how they might best prepare for the upgrade. The two sessions are:

- **Thursday, Feb.18 from 3 – 5 p.m., Room 1040 in Allied Health Building**
- **Friday, Feb.19 from 7:30 – 9:30a.m., Carlos Auditorium in Tegeler Hall**

We hope to see you at one of these two sessions. And if you have any questions regarding Blackboard or this upgrade, please contact either the Reinert CTE at 977-2252 or Kyle Collins at 977-1842.

Sincerely,

Tim Brooks
Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Steve Sanchez
Assistant Vice President