



# Collaboration in Higher Education

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# How Important is Collaboration?

**“My job is to take away the pain of doing collaboration.”**

**- Michelle Lamberson, director,  
Office of Learning Technologies,  
University of British Columbia**



# Collaboration in Higher Education:

- A white paper sponsored by Sun Microsystems, being released July 24 through KE-SIG
- “Measuring Success in E-learning: An Academic Perspective”
- Research on 17 virtual and campus initiatives sought documentable results of e-learning success in four areas:
  - Return on Investment
  - Student Achievement
  - Scalability
  - Collaboration



# Four Forms of Collaboration

- *In content*, such as re-useable learning objects, entire courses for common use
- *In functionality*, such as uPortal from JA-SIG or the Open Knowledge Initiative (OKI)
- *In standards and specifications*, such as meta-tagging and providing commonality for K-12
- *In the sharing of information, ideas, experiences and best practices*, in groups like JA-SIG or KE-SIG, OKI, Sun COEs, or WebCT Institutes



# Examples of Collaboration

- University of British Columbia  
e-communities and e-portfolios
- Stanford University  
With MIT and others, OKI
- Nanyang Technological U., Singapore  
Doing “due diligence” in planning
- University systems of North Carolina and  
Wisconsin, sharing functionality, courses
- British Open University  
The e-mentoring model



# What's Driving Collaboration?

- Student demand – they like blended, on-line courses 14% better than face-to-face lectures
- Government grants – Pew Foundation
- Technology innovation funds on campuses
- Growing ease-of-use and support for the faculty leads to acceptance of on-line collaboration as an acceptable learning methodology



# What Problem Is It Solving?

- Classroom, server and budget constraints
- Improving awareness and admissions process
- Incremental revenue and additional students
- Personnel efficiencies – doing more with less
- Improving the learning process: classroom delivery, grades, course completions, time to competency



# Impacts of Collaboration in HE

- These students are in, or will shortly be entering, the workforce, with expectations
- Open source collaboration on functionality like the uPortal will affect commercial companies with similar functionality
- The free availability of entry level courseware in IT and many other fields
- Legitimizes continuous learning process through e-learning – blended learning is now the predominant way university students are taught



# Where To Get More Information

- Knowledge Enterprise Special Interest Group  
<http://www.sun.com/edu/commofinterest/elearning/sig/>
- Java In Administration SIG and uPortal Project  
<http://www.ja-sig.org/>  
<http://mis105.mis.udel.edu/ja-sig/uportal/>
- University of Central Florida  
Research Initiative for Teaching Effectiveness  
<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~rite/>
- University of British Columbia, Canada  
<https://www.elearning.ubc.ca/login/>
- Florida State University – WebStars  
<http://online.fsu.edu/webstars/>