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Replacing Blackboard: Finding a New Learning Management System for WPI

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GPS: Ignorance is NOT Bliss

Problem
- WPI needs a more user-friendly learning management system (LMS)
- Students and faculty do not use Blackboard to its full potential

Solution
- WPI should replace Blackboard with Canvas
- Follow a two-year plan for implementation

Decision Methodology
- Research
- WPI LMS Criteria
  - LTI Integration
  - Banner Integration
  - Cloud-Based
- Student Surveys
- Student Trials
- Outside Reports
  - Feedback from universities using Canvas

Functions that Need Most Improvement
According to a Survey of WPI Undergraduates

Timeline for Canvas Implementation
- Summer 2016
  - Transfer Fall 2016 courses to Canvas
  - LTI Integration
- Fall 2016
  - Transfer Spring 2017 courses to Canvas
- Spring 2017
  - Fully implement Canvas

Benefits of Canvas
- Long-Term Solution
- Simple Transition
- Meets all WPI criteria
- Cloud Based System
- User-Friendly GUI

Student Trial Results

"We initially had students 'test drive' Canvas when we were still investigating what LMS we should change to and by and large they chose Canvas."
Ed Casey – Brown University

"Navigation was extremely easy in Canvas. Everything was straightforward and easy to find ... simple to use, and fairly intuitive."
Sophomore – WPI

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References