Great Ideas at Work

“The Blackboard Idea Exchange (BIE) is a powerful opportunity to engage directly and work closely with Blackboard on focused topics. The BIE allows clients to better communicate their institution’s needs and build a better relationship with Blackboard.”

Eric Kunnen
Coordinator of Instructional Technologies
Grand Rapids Community College

A BRIGHT IDEA

Are you looking to partner with Blackboard more closely? Do you have strong opinions and great ideas about your academic online infrastructure? Are you eager to share your ideas with us? The Blackboard Idea Exchange™ (BIE) is looking for clients who are willing to participate in a range of feedback opportunities that benefit our entire client community.

Built on the successful history and value of the Client Advisory Boards, our influential client advisory program, the BIE represents the voice of our clients. Clients communicate with Blackboard and with each other on best practices and innovative ideas in the e-Learning community in a variety of ways. These include surveys, focus groups, listserv discussions, webinars, Product Development Partnerships (PDP), beta testing and more.

We’ve welcomed former WebCT customers into the BIE community and increased the number of K-12 members to nearly 50. From large state universities and community colleges to K-12 school districts and research institutions, the BIE’s membership includes institutions in 14 countries and 42 states.

WHY JOIN?

BIE members have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities with ranging commitment levels and we are always looking for increased participation. Members make a tangible impact on Blackboard’s product development choices and quality by providing them with opportunities to:

• Share knowledge on issues as diverse as company strategy, education trends and evolving standards
• Influence early product direction through client surveys
• Collaborate on product analysis and design through preliminary feature reviews
• Gain access to early builds on a central server
• Interact with product development project leaders
• Get early access to Blackboard products by participating in beta testing of new releases
**GIVING RISE TO SOLUTIONS**

What does a member of the BIE do? As a member of the BIE, clients have the opportunity to participate and influence projects in a positive way. Today, feedback from the BIE community is having a direct impact on Blackboard product development issues such as:

- Blackboard Content System™ Product Development Partnership (PDP)
- Next generation product Focus Groups
- BIE Survey on the future development of the Bb Gradebook
- Blackboard Product Future Webinars
- K-12 Information Session on the Blackboard Gradebook
- BIE Advisory Panel for the Blackboard Content System
- Scholar: Project Duckpond Product Development Partnership (PDP)
- Beta: Application Pack 2 for the Blackboard Learning System-Vista Enterprise License/CE Enterprise License
- Gradebook Product Development Partnership (PDP)
- Client Support Advisory Group
- Blackboard Greenhouse Exemplary Course Program Review Panel
- Discussion Board Review Panel

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Clients are welcome to apply to the BIE for any Blackboard product currently deployed at your institution. Applying institutions may submit one or more representatives to the Blackboard Idea Exchange, but these members will preferably be experts with well defined connections to any of Blackboard’s deployed products. Clients will be asked to serve two-year terms to ensure fresh perspectives within the group.

For more information about the roles, responsibilities and membership guidelines for the Blackboard Idea Exchange, please visit www.blackboard.com/bie.

"I am very excited about the Blackboard Idea Exchange. As with anything, the only way to affect change is to be involved. I enjoy being a part of this new organization and working with other members to have a positive impact on the community and Blackboard’s products."

–Bill Mcgee
Director, Tiger 1 Card Services
Clemson University