

ITS eWARRIOR NEWS

WSU Information Technology Services

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WSU ITS HELPS WINONA MODEL LEGISLATURE ENGAGE 100 AREA STUDENTS



The 2021 Winona Model Legislature session was held in Helble Hall and Cathedral School in our Education Village.

One hundred area high school student legislators, a dozen 7th and 8th grade student pages, and numerous advisors and guests experienced democracy in action as students simulated a real legislative session introducing 107 actual bills.

The BP Logix application developed by Adam Gelle to support voting and other legislative processes was visible to the public and performed admirably. This, in addition to a public-facing website at

<https://wsu.mn/modelleg2021>, will be the online technical foundation for future sessions.

Thanks to Micah Droessler for supporting participants' network access. Thanks to Tom Hill and Joe Gunderson for providing AV support. The Education Village was lit and lively, demonstrating exactly what that "Temple of Learning," as Dr. Olson referred to it in his welcoming remarks, was designed to do.

Winona Model Legislature was glorious, it was truly a significant learning experience, and the students who participated will never forget it.



ITS MISSION

Information Technology Services (ITS) provides the technology-based foundation to support and empower the Winona State University (WSU) community to meet and exceed their educational and business needs.

SUPPLY CHAIN CONSTRAINTS REACH WSU ITS

The worldwide chip shortage continues to impact WSU ITS in multiple ways. Shipping delays, parts shortages, and a lack of available stock are just a few of the many ongoing issues. With analysts now predicting the shortage will persist well beyond 2022 forecasting and flexibility will help us continue along a path of success. The University is seeing six plus month delays on some orders.

“Tech Quote”

“These days the technology can solve our problems and then some. Solutions may not only erase physical or mental deficits but leave patients better off than 'able-bodied' folks. The person who has a disability today may have a superability tomorrow.”

— Daniel H. Wilson - New York Times best-selling author, television host and robotics engineer

ITS VISION

Information Technology Services (ITS) endeavors to position the University as a national leader in the innovative and effective use of technology to support the academic enterprise.

WSU ITS RESPONDS TO FACULTY REQUESTS FOR BRIGHTSPACE IMPROVEMENTS

Winona State faculty joined colleagues from around the system and met with leaders and developers from D2L to gather faculty input for how the Brightspace learning management system might be improved. While there were feature requests for D2L, there were several requests for (1) improvements to our local online documentation and (2) changes to the local Brightspace administrative policies. WSU ITS will work with IFO to address these local concerns immediately.

1. Make it easier for faculty to find Brightspace articles on the wiki (e.g., FAQ, search, organization)
2. Review all existing Brightspace articles and ensure that they are up to date and “intelligible.”
3. Improve online instructions in the following specific areas:
 - a. Copying course components
 - b. Building quizzes
 - c. Uploading homework assignment files
 - d. Managing notifications
 - e. Using Microsoft Teams and Brightspace together to support collaborative activities
 - f. Emailing students efficiently
 - g. Supporting student journaling
 - h. Copying content from Microsoft Word to the HTML Editor tool (e.g., quiz questions, assignment descriptions)
 - i. Organizing your Question Library
 - j. Printing a copy of a quiz
 - k. Grading essay exam questions
 - l. Using other modes for assignment submission besides “File upload”
 - m. Managing extra credit in the Grades tool
 - n. Creating Formula columns in the Grades tool

In addition, TLT will research and provide recommendations on the following Brightspace policy changes:

1. Changing the default Homepage navigation (i.e., menus) applied to all Brightspace course shells. Faculty currently have the ability to create custom homepages and modify these menus themselves, but perhaps we want to make changes to the default configuration.
2. Allowing students who are not officially enrolled in a course to audit the content in the corresponding Brightspace course shell. Automating this may require a change to ISRS data and/or the development of an application for requesting such access.
3. Enabling the Video Note tool for providing video feedback. This was disabled for performance optimization reasons and because we have Kaltura MediaSpace already integrated into Brightspace that meets this need.

We expect this will be an iterative process and we appreciate all faculty feedback.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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