

**From:** UWL Canvas Administrator

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2018 9:16 AM

**Subject:** Canvas course template survey - please complete by December 21st

**To instructors who taught in Canvas Fall 2018**

Dear Fall 2018 Canvas Instructor,

We are nearing the close of our first, official semester running courses via our new UW Systemwide [Digital Learning Environment \(DLE\)](#), where the Canvas platform is integrated with many teaching and learning tools. The organization of the new DLE has been deliberately designed to meet the teaching and learning needs identified during the UW System's research process that included the [Learning Environment Needs Analysis \(LENA\) project](#) in 2015, followed by the Learning Environment Requirements Gathering (LERG) project in 2016 - both culminating in a very [rigorous procurement process](#) of our new learning environment.

Through the research process to prepare for the future, and considering how to align with the [UW System 2020FWD](#) strategic plan, the new DLE was designed to use a "fixed yet flexible" framework. In this framework, certain elements of the DLE are fixed (or standardized and cannot be changed) and flexible (can be changed to accommodate the needs of specific teaching and learning best practices). This new, student-centered DLE has several advantages – it provides students with a consistent user experience which lowers barriers to accessing key course content. When students log into a course within the UW System Canvas environment, they are presented with some basic, default settings that allows getting started in your course much easier and more intuitive – giving students more time to engage with your course, rather than trying to figure out how to navigate and find what is needed. Our DLE is designed to also support those students who are transitioning among and between campuses, such as transfer students, as well as those who enroll in collaborative courses offered by several of our institutions.

The process of ensuring the new environment is robust and user friendly is ongoing. Since our technology is now living in the "cloud," our technology is on a regular path of continuous improvement.

**In order to better understand your experience with the DLE this Fall, please provide us with your feedback. Please follow this link and complete the survey by December 21 so we can gather your feedback:** [https://milwaukee.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3WPF3Np4HLTRT4V](https://milwaukee.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3WPF3Np4HLTRT4V)

Thank you!