

**Recommendation and Report of the Learning Management System Team  
Durham Technical Community College  
March 31, 2010**

**Recommendation Summary**

The Learning Management System (LMS) team unanimously recommends that Durham Tech remain on Blackboard while our team explores Sakai further to determine if the college should invest in a full-scale pilot of that product. We also recommend that the team examine the next major release of Blackboard (version 9.1, due out in April 2010) so that an appropriate comparison can be made.

Before the college commits to switching from Blackboard to another LMS, we believe it is necessary to conduct a pilot in which selected Durham Tech instructors (some technically-oriented, some not) teach courses using that LMS. A Sakai pilot would require funds (\$5,000 – \$25,000) to train instructors and support staff and to provide a stable, supported environment for student learning. The investment in the pilot would serve as a first step in transitioning should the decision be made to continue in that direction. Due to the costs, time, and human resources required, we do not recommend piloting more than one product.

In making our determination to examine Sakai more closely and to compare it with Blackboard's forthcoming new version, our team gave thoughtful consideration to which product best supports student learning, and we attempted to be forward-thinking in choosing a direction that is most likely to suit the needs and trends of the future.