Introducing Blackboard Next Generation (Release 9.1)
(Upgrade Scheduled for May 2011)

On May 30, 2011, Blackboard Next Generation (NG) will make its campus-wide debut at Northern Illinois University. This will be the most significant upgrade of Blackboard since it was first introduced at NIU almost ten years ago.

Blackboard NG introduces **over 80 new and enhanced features** some of which include:

- Redesigned and updated interface
- Notification system for course updates
- New collaboration tools (Wikis, Blogs, Journals)
- Enhanced Group features
- Multiple Assignment submissions
- New content types (Learning Modules, Lesson Plans, Mashups)

Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center will be offering the following **training programs** to assist faculty, instructors, teaching staff, and teaching assistants with the transition:

- Online and face-to-face preview sessions prior to upgrade
- Hands-on workshops for new users
- “Tune-up” workshops for experienced users
- “Blackboard Boot Camp” days for in-depth advanced sessions
- Open Lab sessions every day of the first week of summer and fall 2011 semesters for individual assistance

For a complete list of features, upcoming training programs and an overview of Blackboard NG visit: [www.niu.edu/blackboard/ng](http://www.niu.edu/blackboard/ng)