



## Reducing Software and Support Costs; Increasing Faculty LMS Adoption

### CHALLENGES

Using an open source portal with outside support from an IT consulting firm, Marietta College was growing increasingly frustrated with the escalating costs and lack of new enhancements to the portal. Little more than a single sign-on hub with a few tabs, the portal's limitations included:

- Lack of integration to the Colleague® by Ellucian administrative suite and legacy Learning Management System (LMS); IT was continually writing custom programs to keep systems in sync
- Low faculty adoption of LMS
- No options for personalizing the portal environment
- Limited functionality for online group collaboration

At the same time, campus constituents were growing dissatisfied with their LMS and expressed an interest in migrating to Moodle open source course management. Marietta realized this was the opportune time to address the challenges with its overall teaching and learning infrastructure, including:

- Lack of real-time updating; nightly batch jobs required IT staff time and failed to meet student/faculty expectations of instant access to registered courses
- Inability to “hide” classes that weren't being taught in a given semester or term, causing confusion among faculty and staff
- Self-service forms and course information housed in different locations, requiring multiple logins and clicks to access

“By implementing Colleague Portal and the Intelligent Learning Platform, Marietta College has reduced our annual licensing and support costs by 75 percent, increased faculty adoption of our learning management system by 60 percent, and seen a significant increase in collaboration through the portal.”

Aaron Cowdery  
Director of Administrative Services  
Marietta College

## SOLUTIONS

Built on Microsoft SharePoint technology, the Colleague Portal serves as the central hub between Colleague and the Intelligent Learning Platform and supports multiple ways to receive and manage information, including Ellucian Mobile Access (MOX). It brings together course information, reporting, registration, calendaring, newsfeeds, and other functionality to create a single user experience without the hassle of managing multiple logins.

By adding the Intelligent Learning Platform, Marietta College now has a seamless back-and-forth flow of administrative and academic data, giving them:

- Single sign-on to email, web forms, learning management, and more
- Automatic course/section creation based on institutional criteria
- Easy management and delivery of course materials
- Grade entry in a single location in just three clicks
- Instant access to course information upon enrollment

“The Colleague Portal is more than just a single sign-on stepping stone. It’s a place where people really want to go to build a community. It has made our experiences on campus much more personalized, and we’re very pleased with it.”

Aaron Cowdery  
Director of Administrative Services  
Marietta College

## RESULTS

The real-time integration between Colleague, the portal, and the learning management system has contributed to a host of benefits, including:

- Reduced costs by 75 percent
- Increased faculty LMS adoption by 60 percent
- Nearly 40 portal team sites in use within the first two years of implementation
- Elimination of custom programming and nightly batch processing; course access is now provisioned upon registration, reducing IT management time and easing student/faculty frustration
- Easy expansion capabilities through Microsoft SharePoint technology to meet changing needs
- Ability to hide classes to keep the portal interface clean and pertinent
- New level of student satisfaction with personalized, one-stop experience; self-service forms and class information are consolidated in one location

## ABOUT MARIETTA COLLEGE

- Private, four-year liberal arts institute in Marietta, Ohio
- Enrollment of 1,400 students from more than 40 states and 10 countries
- Offers more than 40 undergraduate majors

## ABOUT ELLUCIAN

Ellucian helps education institutions thrive in an open and dynamic world. We deliver a broad portfolio of technology solutions, developed in collaboration with a global education community, and provide strategic guidance to help education institutions of all kinds navigate change, achieve greater transparency, and drive efficiencies. More than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries around the world look to Ellucian for the ideas and insights that will move education forward, helping people everywhere discover their futures through learning.

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