

THE MORNING *LaTTe*

LaTTe's NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2023

The Learning and Teaching Technologies Advisory Group (LaTTe) provides connectivity between Senate Education Committee, ITDS, schools and academic units to identify and promote technologies that facilitate learning and teaching at Western.

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, and if you would like to know more or get involved, contact your [LaTTe representative](#).



Cortex

Learning Resource Developers from Learning Futures provided a presentation on Cortex, a custom Blackboard template developed in-house.

Cortex has a distinctive visual and structural identity, it overlays onto Blackboard's standard interface and is tailored to the branding of Western. Cortex promotes the Digital Learning Thresholds, Western's standards for quality design and enhancement in our digital learning environment. Sites using the Cortex template present their content in a uniform and standardised manner, elevating the overall quality of the student learning experience.

Blackboard Ultra

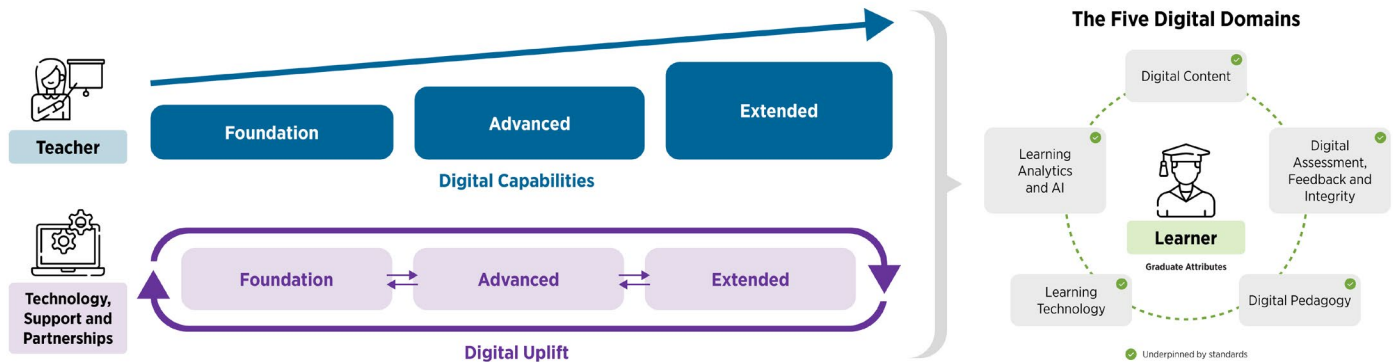
Blackboard has released a new navigation system, Ultra Base Navigation (UBN), replacing the landing page that staff and students see immediately after logging into vUWS. UBN provides a more intuitive, contemporary view and aims to cater for current user expectations.

Blackboard claims that UBN provides "...a more modern, intuitive navigation that provides quick access to the most critical information from across all courses. It creates a more engaging, efficient, and enjoyable experience for students and instructors, without having to change their courses (subjects)."

In the coming months, LaTTe will discuss the possibility of Western adopting UBN, specifically, the benefits this update will provide for students.

For more information, please contact [Leanne Yard](#).

LATTE



TEL Strategy 2023 to 2025

Improving the student learning experience is at the heart of Western's Technology-Enabled-Learning (TEL) Strategy. A specific strategy for the whole of institution is necessary to improve the digital capabilities, skills and confidence of learners and instructors over the next three years.

An integrated approach contributes to improving competence in foundational tools and techniques, as well as more advanced and sophisticated digital capabilities for learning, teaching and assessment. To achieve these goals, the TEL Strategy aims to create stronger foundations to build upon, support our users by uplifting capabilities, create real-world experiences, enable users to create and access engaging content, intentionally design for digital first learning and use learning analytics to enable the generation of actionable insights.

The TEL Strategy supports *Sustaining Success 2021-2026* where Western is committed to offering our students excellence in education through the principles of sustainability, equity, transformation and connectedness.

The strategy identifies three levels that communicate agency and the evolution of the adoption of technology skills, as detailed here:

- ▶ Foundation level - Adoption Pioneer
- ▶ Advanced level - Technology Advocate
- ▶ Extend level - Digital Change Maker

The Technology-Enabled-Learning Strategy is aligned to national and international standards providing rigour and enabling ongoing transformation of teaching and learning with technology with an ever-changing technology ecosystem.

For more information about the TEL Strategy, please contact [Lynnae Venaruzzo](#) or [Leanne Yard](#).

Keen to know more?

Contact your **LaTTe representative** or visit [LaTTe's webpage](#).

Have a great day! From your colleagues on LaTTe.