



Instructure, Blackboard, Desire2Learn and IMS Global Launch the LTI™ App Bounty

New competition promises to help accelerate the open standards-based edtech ecosystem

San Diego, California – May 13, 2013 – [Instructure](#), maker of the Canvas learning platform, announced at the IMS Global Conference today that it is partnering with [Blackboard](#), [Desire2Learn](#) and IMS Global Learning Consortium to encourage development of new LTI apps for education. As part of the “LTI App Bounty,” Instructure is offering a \$250 reward for each qualifying LTI app submitted by June 10, plus an additional \$1,000 for the best apps selected by an expert panel of judges from Blackboard, Desire2Learn, Remote-Learner, IMS Global, Brown University, The University of Texas at Austin and Hack Education.

“The LTI standard makes integration of educational resources exponentially easier and fuels innovation in education,” said Dr. Rob Abel, chief executive of IMS Global. “We commend Instructure and the industry-leading organizations supporting IMS for working together to grow an open and innovative education ecosystem.”

Launched by IMS Global in 2010, LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability) provides standard APIs and data integrations for developers to create education apps that operate cross-platform. The goal of the LTI App Bounty is to leverage interest in LTI as a way to increase openness and interoperability in edtech.

“Cooperation in education is fundamental to learning, and I believe it’s fundamental to creating a technology ecosystem,” said Brian Whitmer, co-founder and chief product officer at Instructure. “Unfortunately, old style vendor lock-in has been a drag on the level of innovation and growth of a true edtech ecosystem. But with initiatives like the App Bounty, we’re working to fix that.”

“Desire2Learn has been a contributing member to IMS GLC for almost a decade and has taken a leadership position in the development and proliferation of standards,” said Jeremy Auger, chief technology officer at Desire2Learn. “We are excited to be a part of any effort that furthers

the adoption of the LTI standard and increases the availability of integrated learning experiences.”

“I am very excited to be a part of this project and see what kind of apps it produces,” said Chuck Severance, chief Sakai strategist at Blackboard. “Anything we can do to foster innovation and collaboration among edtech users — and each other — is good for the entire education industry. The LTI App Bounty does a good job at encouraging both.”

The LTI App Bounty panel of judges includes:

- Rob Abel, CEO of IMS Global
- Hong Chau, Instructional Designer at Brown University
- Barry Dahl, Community Manager at Desire2Learn
- Chuck Severance, Chief Sakai Strategist, Blackboard
- Audrey Watters, Edtech Journalist for Hack Education
- David Wiley, Openness Evangelist and Shuttleworth Fellow
- Katherine Grace Gordon, Computer Science Student at The University of Texas at Austin
- Jason Cole, CEO and Moodle Author at Remote-Learner

For information about how to participate in the LTI App Bounty, visit

http://instructure.github.io/lti_bounty.html

For information about IMS LTI, visit <http://developers.imsglobal.org/catalog.html>

About IMS Global:

IMS Global is a nonprofit organization that advances technology that can affordably scale and improve educational participation and attainment. IMS members are leading suppliers, institutions and government organizations that are enabling the future of education by collaborating on interoperability and adoption initiatives. IMS sponsors Learning Impact: a global awards program and conference to recognize the impact of innovative technology on educational access, affordability and quality. To learn more about IMS Global, visit

<http://www.imsglobal.org>

About Instructure:

Instructure is a technology company committed to improving education. We provide instructors and students with modern tools and resources that empower and simplify the learning experience. Instructure offers Canvas, the open, easy-to-use, cloud-native learning management system, as well as [Canvas Network](#), an index of open, online courses by educators everywhere — from Ivy League institutions to community colleges.

About Blackboard Inc.:

Blackboard Inc. is a global leader in enterprise technology and innovative solutions that improve the experience of millions of students and learners around the world every day. Blackboard's solutions allow thousands of higher education, K-12, professional, corporate and government organizations to extend teaching and learning online, facilitate campus commerce and security and communicate more effectively with their communities. Founded in 1997, Blackboard is headquartered in Washington, D.C., with offices in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. To learn more about Blackboard, visit <http://www.blackboard.com/>

About Desire2Learn:

Desire2Learn is helping to transform the way the world learns. Providing the next generation learning environment and solutions to engage and inspire lifelong learners, Desire2Learn helps clients break down barriers to access the highest quality learning experiences, and is recognized for its leadership in accessibility. Desire2Learn is a global leader in cloud (SaaS) based learning solutions and provides an open and extensible platform to over 750 clients and over 10 million learners in higher education, K-12, healthcare, government and the corporate sector, including the Fortune 1000. Desire2Learn has personnel in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil and Singapore. For more information or to contact us, visit <http://www.Desire2Learn.com>

Contact:

Lisa Mattson, Chief Operations Officer
+1.407.362.7783 | lmattson@imglobal.org
Twitter: @learningimpact

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