



# UFS Winter Plenary DIAS Update

January 17, 2025  
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# SUNY Academic Innovation Grants



# 2025-26 Academic Innovation Grants Innovative Instruction Technology Grants (IITG)

## Open Educational Resources (OER) Impact Grants

### Goal: Promote academic innovation aligned with Chancellor's Four Pillars

**Focus on:** AI for teaching & learning  
Expanding OER adoption

**Key Dates:** Ideation Form: February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Town Halls: February 17<sup>th</sup> – February 28<sup>th</sup>  
RFP Site Opens: March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Proposals Due: March 30<sup>th</sup>

**Two-Stage Process:** **Stage 1:** Ideation Form submission and participation in Town Hall webinars  
**Stage 2:** Full proposal submission and review





# Upcoming SUNY Conferences



# Spring/Summer 2025 SUNY Conferences

## [SUNY Library Association](#)

### [Mid-Winter Online Conference](#)

February 7

Virtual

## [SUNY Online Summit](#)

February 26-28

Syracuse (Doubletree)

## [Digital Learning Conference](#)

March 12-13

Binghamton University

## [Conference on Instruction & Technology](#)

May 20-23

SUNY Oneonta

## [SUNY Technology Conference](#)

June 2-5

Lake Placid

## [SUNY Library Association](#)

June 18-20

SUNY Delhi



# DIAS Campus Visits



# DLE Campus Visits Lessons Learned

- Students find Brightspace to be highly effective, attractive, and easy to navigate – across the board.
- Most faculty find Brightspace to be highly effective, attractive, and easy to navigate.
- There is some functionality from legacy systems (Moodle, Bb) that is not present in Brightspace.
- Campuses are still developing new policies and standards (use of templates, training requirements).
- Campuses appreciate the shared services offered by SUNY Online (Help Desk, Application Services, Institutional Readiness).
- Implementing the DLE required tremendous effort on campus but everyone got there.
- The timeline was rough for Cohort 1.
- Strong campus support was a factor in the overall campus experience.
- Some interesting uses of the DLE – student orientation, advising, affinity groups (majors), intelligent agents, badging



# SUNY CPD Campus Visits

## Lessons Learned

- Validation of the work we do – appreciation from campuses
- Eager to share connect with others – regional activity
- Very little on-campus Leadership Development Programs
- Need to develop more connections with Student Success Services:
  - UDL
  - Academic Advising
  - Career Development
- Need to showcase, no-cost offerings: Lack of funding for PD
- Need for different membership models: SO Points etc.
- Helpful for discovering internal SUNY expertise
- Program Development Opportunities
- Good to see campus spaces for program planning
- Helpful to hear how campuses are managing membership dollars – opportunity to share with other campuses





# OLIS Campus Visits

## Lessons Learned

- Overall, campuses believe Alma / Primo VE has had a positive impact on SUNY libraries' workflows and efficiencies
- Libraries contribute to student success by providing comfortable places where students can learn and connect
- Strong interest in leveraging AI and other emerging technologies
- Libraries are looking to collaborate more strategically, both within their campuses and with other institutions, to share resources and expertise
- Libraries are transforming into learning commons models



Common area in Milne  
Library at SUNY  
Oneonta

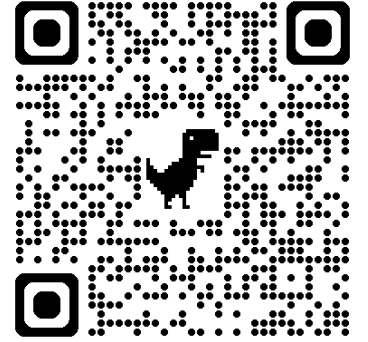


# SUNY Digital Learning Environment Learning Object Repository



# DLE-Wide

## Learning Object Repository



- Available to all faculty within the shared DLE environment.
- Facilitates content sharing between individuals across SUNY.
  - Modules, pages, documents, multimedia, SCORM packages
- All content in the LOR is checked for accessibility and copyright license before being shared.
- Campus-specific LORs are available upon request.



# SUNY Digital Transformation Project



# SUNY Digital Transformation Project

[Project Website](#) – list of projects and high-level information on goal

Projects faculty may be interested in:

- Digital Academic Support Solutions (DASS)
- AI Tutor
- Digital Backpack
- Comprehensive Online Education Initiative – Consultant Services
- Research Data Repository
- Research Information Management



# Digital Academic Support Solutions (DASS) Multi-Vendor Award RFP

**Seeking options to provide both a basic and advanced solution in each of the three lots below**

Min of two contracts - max of six contracts (NOTE: six different vendors is highly unlikely)

Functionality	Lots
Early Alerts/Comms	Lot I
Analytics	Lot II
All In (Early Alerts/Comms) + Analytics	Lot III

Status:  
 Tentative Vendor Award made  
 Contract Negotiations in Process  
 Contracts Anticipated in Fall 2025

### **Basic (within each Lot)**

Mandatory Requirements (A) - Minimum requirements needed for campuses that can only deploy a basic solution

Preferred Requirements (B) - Additional functionality that would be helpful and could be utilized

### **Advanced (within each Lot)**

Mandatory Requirements (A+B) - Minimum requirements needed for campuses that have the staff/resources to fully deploy a more robust solution

Preferred Requirements (C) - Additional functionality that would be helpful and could be utilized



# AI Tutor Scope/Use Cases/Scenarios

Use Case/Scenario	Yes/No
1. In Course tutor - faculty content only; based on faculty pedagogy/instructional approach	Yes
2. Subject Matter Tutor – beyond faculty content (public tutorials & resources)	Yes
3. Generalized Tutor – writing, studying, test prep, etc.	No
4. Student AI Assistant (in course/out of course)	No



# AI Tutor – Project Timeline

	2024		2025				2026						
Major Milestones	Fall		Spring	Summer		Fall		Spring	Summer	Fall			
Establish Implementation Team	█	█											
Define Project Scope	█	█	█										
Survey, Explore & Support Campus Pilots			█	█	█	█							
Identify recommended Solution Path			█	█									
Design/Conduct RFP or Design SUNY Solution					█	█	█						
Execute Contract for External Vendor							█	█					
Design and Implementation for first Cohort									█	█			
Solution Enhancement/Prep for Second Cohort											█		
Implementation of second cohort												█	█
Operationalize Ongoing Support/Funding												█	█





# ADA Title II Updates



# ADA Title II Updates

## 2023 Dear Colleague Letter

Issued by the US Department of Justice and US Department of Education

- Cites online accessibility challenges for learners with disabilities as institutions of higher education increasingly rely on websites and third-party platforms
- Cites two laws as the relevant legal framework
  - ADA (Title II for Public institutions)
  - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Identifies enforcement actions through both the US Dept of Justice the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights
- Provides guidance, resources, and support for institutions

***“Online accessibility for people with disabilities cannot be an afterthought”***



# What is Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

[Title II of the ADA](#) requires state and local governments to make sure that their services, programs, and activities are accessible to people with disabilities. Title II applies to all services, programs, or activities of state and local governments, from adoption services to zoning regulation. This includes the services, programs, and activities that state and local governments offer online and through mobile apps.



# **New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments**

April 24, 2024:

US Department of Justice's final rule updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The final rule has specific requirements about how to ensure that web content and mobile applications (apps) are accessible to people with disabilities.

[Fact Sheet](#)



# New Rule is a Paradigm Shift

- Design for inclusivity from the start versus making accommodations and remediation if/when needed
  - Analogy of architecture and building standards
- Applies to everyone covered under the Title II of the ADA
  - Includes everyone across SUNY (faculty, staff, students, public visitors)



# Two Deadlines

**April 2026** - Large entities (drawing from a population of 50,000 or more)

**April 2027** - Small Entities (drawing from a population of less than 50,000)

- Not based on # of employees or # of students
- CC's would draw from County
- State Ops would draw from the state – definitely large entity
- Go to [ada.gov](https://ada.gov) – small entity guide



# SUNY Accessibility Advocates and Allies Faculty Fellowship



# SUNY Universal Design for Learning

- Universal Design for Learning
  - creating a more inclusive learning environment for students with disabilities by eliminating barriers to learning during the design process
- SUNY Universal Design for Learning Project
  - Began in 2021 to provide free professional development to SUNY faculty and instructional designers in the UDL framework
  - UDL principles included in Brightspace training for faculty as part of the SUNY DLE implementation.
  - <https://www.suny.edu/udl/>





# Launch of SUNY Accessibility Advocates and Allies Faculty Fellowship

**Goal:** Cultivate a culture of access for people with disabilities throughout the SUNY System by developing campus-level faculty champions.

[Faculty Fellows Website](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Fellows Bios](#)



## Program Objectives:

During this program fellows will:

- Explore models and strategies to build and expand a culture of access on their campuses;
- Share their expertise and experience as they identify obstacles and work towards solutions to broader adoption of accessibility practices;
- Connect with other communities of practice and campus leaders with a shared vision, including but not limited to: Disability/Accessibility Directors, EIT Accessibility Officers, Chief Diversity Officers, Chief Information Officers, Teaching Center Directors, Directors of Online Learning, SUNY Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology, Instructional Designers;
- Grow as faculty leaders as they coordinate with campus leadership to design and **execute a plan to engage their campus community in the work of access**



# Where should we focus in 2025-2026?



# Context

- SUNY Online
  - Digital Learning Environment
  - Library and Information Services
  - Open Educational Resources
  - Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility
  - FACT<sup>2</sup> Task Groups
  - Innovative Instruction Technology Grants
  - OER Impact Grants
  - Digital Transformation Project
- What national trends are you seeing?
  - What is your campus trying to do?
  - Where are you coming up against challenges?
  - Where can we help?