Learning Environment Needs Analysis Project (2015)
Status Update: July 1, 2015

Project Overview:

- By the conclusion of the Fall 2015 semester, a Learn@UW-sponsored, "Learning Environment Needs Analysis Report" will be created on behalf of the UW System CIO in order to help guide future initiatives in the learning technology space.

- Report findings will be drawn through detailed conversations with a wide range of stakeholder groups across all the UW System institutions.

- The Report will also include an external environmental scan of higher education's competitive environment, in addition to the internally-focused needs gathering sessions.

- We are looking to the "next gen" digital learning environment to enable UW System to be more nimble, flexible, and adaptive and we expect that it would support innovations in traditional degree credit teaching and learning practices as well as in emerging practices such as the Flex Degree option, credit for prior learning, continuing education, and entrepreneurship.

- It is conceivable that such an adaptive environment could replace the need to predict and plan within a framework of closed, tightly-knitted systems based on what we "think" will happen five to ten years from now. **The new environment could enable us to be open and thrive in any future that may evolve, rather than having to predict the future with varying degrees of success and then react to it.**

Project Plan:

- As a first step in gathering the information needed to envision a "next gen" leaning environment, a set of sessions within the UW System institutions will be staged. During July and August 2015, Renee Pfeifer-Luckett (UWSA Director, Learning Technology Development) and La Vonne Cornell-Swanson (UWSA Director, Office of Professional and Instructional Development) will visit campuses and meet with a wide array of administrative constituents.

- The second step in gathering information is to engage with instructors and students during Fall 2015.

- The goals of the all engagements are two-fold: 1) help constituents learn about and put into context the new value propositions made possible by next generation digital learning environments, and 2) understand the present and future teaching and learning needs of UW System institutions.

- We look to the Provosts to help facilitate these conversations with institutions so that we can ensure all voices are heard.

- Renee Pfeifer-Luckett, UWSA Director of Learning Technology Development will reach out to Provosts to provide more details about this effort and also to ask for recommendations on those in administration to engage with at their institutions. We expect to schedule the majority of sessions to take place during the month of July. We also plan engage with students and faculty during the Fall 2015 semester.