University of Tasmania Drives Student Success with the Brightspace Platform’s Predictive Analytics Technology

D2L Student Success System™ develops intervention strategies to provide students with personalised support, leading to higher student retention and achievement

Melbourne, Australia, September 2, 2014 – D2L (Desire2Learn)—the learning technology company that created Brightspace, the world’s first truly integrated learning platform (ILP)—takes student engagement and achievement rates at the University of Tasmania to a new level with D2L Student Success System™ (S3), a flagship offering in the company’s analytics portfolio.

UTAS, ranked in the top ten research universities in Australia and in the top two percent of universities worldwide*, uses the Brightspace platform to deliver a pervasive learning experience to more than 26,000 students.

The University will use the S3 module to gather learner data and employ D2L’s analytics capabilities to transform the student experience, a top priority for the institution. Based on predictive modeling and rich data visualisations, the complex data is transformed into easily identifiable patterns of academic risk or weakness.

“University of Tasmania saw the critical need to personalise the learning experience through better understanding of student progress, interaction, and connection—particularly in large classes and with distance students,” said Peter Kokkinos, Asia Pacific Sales Director, D2L. “S3 provides an early warning system for lecturers to identify at-risk students, offering actionable insights for them to determine if intervention measures are required.”

Designed to let instructors visualise and compare key learning and engagement factors—from course content access to social learning patterns and academic results—S3 provides lecturers with real-time insight into a learner’s progress at any time during the course.

Dynamic track and trend functionality allows instructors to closely monitor at-risk students while inline communication tools help foster mentorship and academic guidance plans.

“Analytics has to be actionable, in-flight and real-time, to influence outcomes and deliver true impact, rather than after the fact,” added Kokkinos.

Jeff Murray, Chief Information Officer (CIO) at UTAS said student engagement has been taken to a new level with the Brightspace platform.

“Having our finger on the pulse of students will help us identify learners who are not just struggling, but will also indicate when their learning patterns start to display trends of distress or potential failure later in the term,” said Murray. “This will allow lecturers to come up with timely intervention strategies to ensure all students get the personal attention and support required to change outcomes.”

Murray said this in turn will help the university to continue with its high quality teaching programs while also enabling higher student retention and success rates across the institution.

“UTAS is looking at the behavioural patterns against dynamic algorithms fed from prior student patterns and institutional experience to predict student success and measure engagement both at an academic and social level,” he said. “We are also able to see aggregate views of student progress at course and institutional levels—these kinds of insights support us in making informed decisions in our strategic planning processes.”

UTAS has been using the Brightspace platform extensively to create a rich, collaborative learning environment beyond the physical classroom. The flexible, open architecture of the platform has enabled UTAS to spearhead various innovative learning initiatives, such as creating the world’s first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on dementia.

“Having a mature learning program with all subjects online and fully accessible, the university is now in a position to leverage the large volume of data generated to fully realise the advantages of predictive analytics,” said Murray.

“D2L is changing the face of education and personalisation in Australia,” said Kokkinos. “Soon, more than 300,000 Australian students in the
University, TAFE and K–12 sectors will start to experience the personalisation, support and strategic value our predictive analytics solution provides.”

*Source: Academic Ranking of World Universities 2013*

ABOUT D2L

A global leader in EdTech, D2L is the creator of Brightspace, the world’s first integrated learning platform. The company partners with thought-leading organizations to improve learning through data-driven technology that helps deliver a personalized experience to every learner, regardless of geography or ability. D2L’s open and extensible platform is used by more than 1,100 clients and almost 15 million individual learners in higher education, K–12, healthcare, government, and the enterprise sector—including Fortune 1000 companies. The company has operations in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil, and Singapore. www.brightspace.com | www.D2L.com

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