# The Power of Together: How Trocaire College Rapidly Modernized Their Online Learning Experience

Close collaboration between Trocaire and Anthology saw them move from Moodle to Blackboard in a single summer, delivering benefits for instructors and students alike.

## Developing Work-Ready Graduates in Western New York

Located in Buffalo, New York, Trocaire College is a private Catholic institution with a proud focus on career advancement. "The goal of a Trocaire College degree is to equip our students to become graduates of choice, fully prepared to thrive in a variety of in-demand career-oriented professions," reads their website, and for more than six decades, they've delivered on this promise.

The team at Trocaire recognizes the growing role that technology plays in the modern workforce and regularly updates their approach to instruction accordingly. By embracing the latest in learning technology, they create graduates with strong digital literacy to complement skills in their chosen profession.

**INSTITUTION TYPE:**
PRIVATE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

**LOCATION:**
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

**STUDENTS:**
1,300

**ANTHOLOGY PRODUCT:**
Blackboard
Anthology Ally

## The Challenge

**Modernizing the Learning Experience in a Short Timeframe**

Trocaire observed that their previous learning management system (LMS), Moodle, was no longer fit for their purpose.

One consideration for Trocaire's Digital Learning Team was artificial intelligence (AI). Trocaire was eager to explore the opportunity for this to be an integrated part of the learning experience. They wanted to find a clear AI approach and a partner with a history of including generative AI in their solutions.

The challenge—as is so often the case in higher education—is that they had only a limited time to move to a new LMS and many courses and materials that needed to be migrated. Trocaire went to market to look for a new LMS vendor that could not only help update their online learning experience but also ensure a quick and seamless transition.

## The Solution

**A Collaborative Approach to Quickly Adopt Blackboard**

After a market review, Trocaire chose Anthology® Blackboard as their LMS to assist with modernization. They appreciated the market leadership in AI, robust mobile experience, and strong recent history of product innovation across content design, grading, and assessment. They enhanced Blackboard with Anthology® Ally to improve the accessibility of course materials.

Trocaire started by assembling a core internal team— comprising IT, academic, and online learning professionals—to manage the project from start to finish. A major focus for this team was to ensure engagement with key stakeholders, particularly instructors and students, communicate the benefits of Blackboard, and explain the migration process. College leadership, including the president, chief information officer, chief financial officer, academic affairs, student affairs, and academic advisement, were all heavily involved and helped to drive the visibility of the transition plan across the institution.

An initial needs survey was distributed to instructors to understand key areas of focus for upskilling and training. A faculty pilot program was introduced during the summer. The early adopters assisted in rolling out peer-to-peer training prior to the fall semester and the school offered video demonstrations and personalized training sessions.

For students, a multi-channel communication plan was developed, including newsletters, a dedicated website, and instructional videos. An asynchronous Blackboard training course for students was created with support during the classes and promoted during the rollout.

Anthology provided dedicated resources and support throughout the transition. A clear implementation plan was aligned upfront. Furthermore, varied Anthology experts were engaged to support the core Trocaire team and ensure a seamless transition. Anthology Academy training modules were rolled out to relevant stakeholders, including instructors and staff.

*Anthology's integration team was amazing—highly responsive, professional, and committed to helping us overcome challenges. They listened to our needs, brought in the right experts, and provided invaluable guidance every step of the way. The Anthology team was not only focused on ensuring a smooth transition but was also deeply invested in our success."*

**—Mary Beth Scumaci**
*Director of Digital Learning, Trocaire College*

Finally, an important workstream focused on the migration of existing courses. Anthology provided the technology required for courses to be migrated in bulk, and instructors were given the option of moving their courses automatically or redesigning them using Trocaire templates in Blackboard. Office hours were established with the Trocaire Digital Learning Team, who collaborated with Anthology experts to decide which approach worked best for instructors and their courses. This combination of automated technology and user oversight allowed the institution to balance efficiency and effectiveness and quickly get learning materials available in their new LMS.

# The Results

**A Complete Overhaul of Online Learning, Launched in Just Six Weeks**

You read that correctly! In just six weeks, Trocaire migrated to Blackboard. Having kept instructors and students engaged throughout the transition, both cohorts rapidly embraced the new platform.
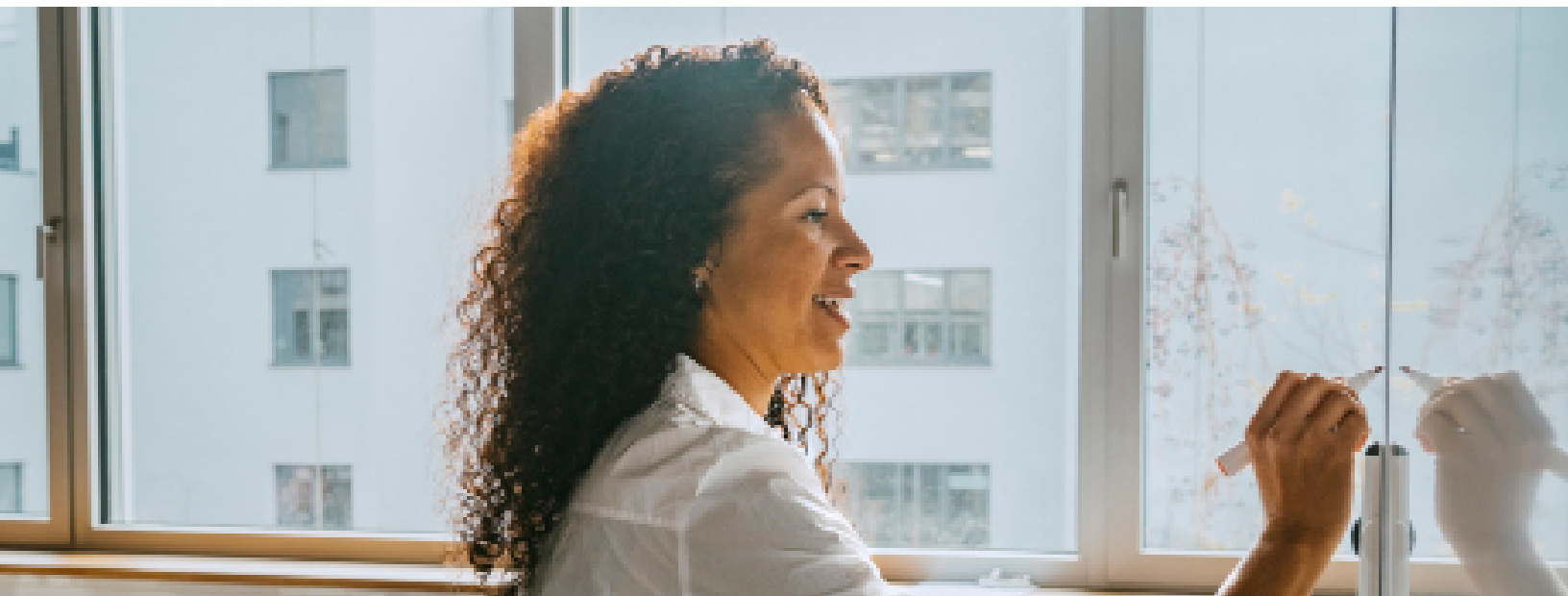
Instructors at Trocaire are especially enjoying the AI Design Assistant in Blackboard to create course structure and assessments. In addition to making the process faster, many teachers have noted that it offers a different angle to a task they might not have thought of. This is complemented by workflows that make it much easier to embed content like video and publisher materials. This simplifies the often arduous and time-consuming task of instructional design. Instructors are also finding grading more streamlined, leveraging native insights on student progress to support those in need, accessing copyright-free imagery to add to courses, and using communication tools within the platform to improve learner engagement. They also love the Blackboard mobile experience which allows them to use the full scope of the LMS when on the go.

*We found that Blackboard offers a modern and streamlined look for course modules, and at our institution we saw that there was a significant improvement in the ease of use and convenience from both a student and a faculty perspective. When switching an LMS, we need to think about getting everyone to buy in, and it's easy to do that when the features are so easy to use, customizable, and convenient."*
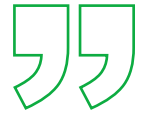
**—Amy Griffith**
*PhD, Associate Professor, Trocaire College*

Learners noted that Blackboard is far easier to navigate than their previous LMS. They can locate key course content much faster, particularly when studying on their mobile device, and find the overall user experience more modern and intuitive. The inclusion of Anthology Ally has driven a sharp increase in accessibility for course content, with 88.9% of all courses now completely accessible and workflows in place to update the remaining courses.

*Our transition from Moodle to Blackboard was an incredibly smooth and efficient integration process, thanks to the collaboration and dedication of the Anthology and Trocaire College teams. In just six weeks, we were teaching courses online, with a harmonious integration of our Moodle content into Blackboard. Blackboard's user-friendly interface, AI-powered tools, and multi-device responsiveness have transformed our teaching and learning experience, making it easier for instructors to design and teach engaging curriculum and students to interact with content as they easily navigated the LMS."*

**—Mary Beth Scumaci**
*Director of Digital Learning, Trocaire College*

## Epilogue

Anthology extends profound thanks to Mary Beth Scumaci and the entire Trocaire College team for their ongoing partnership and advocacy. This culminated in a terrific presentation about their transition to Blackboard at our recent Digital Teaching Symposium, which is available on demand for members of the Anthology Community.

To learn more about what's new in Blackboard, check out the Anthology blog or see for yourself with a free 30-day trial.

Anthology