Building Blackboard Together 2026
Call for Proposals Submission Guide

Submission portal

Blackboard

Table of Contents

What Is Building Blackboard Together?

July 13-15, 2026 | Hilton Anatole | Dallas, TX

Building Blackboard Together 2026 (BbT) is Blackboard's flagship user conference for educators, technologists, and higher ed and institutional leaders. All products and services will be showcased at BbT, including Blackboard® LMS, Ally, Illuminate, Evaluate, and Institutional Effectiveness solutions, along with in-person access to the teams behind them.

Attendees represent higher education, corporate, and government institutions and organizations from around the globe.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

We are seeking relevant real-world case studies, research, best practices, and creative content that can inspire attendees and give them practical information they can use at their own institutions.

If chosen to join our presenters panel, you will receive **special recognition** on your BbT name badge and a **discounted registration rate of $600**.

Key Dates

- CFP Submission Portal Opens: February 23, 2026

- CFP Submission Portal Closes: March 23, 2026

- Acceptance/Regret Notices Sent: April 29, 2026

- Accepted Sessions Posted on Conference Website: May 18, 2026

- Session Schedule Released: June 2026

Building Blackboard Together 2026

Programs Tracks

Accessibility and Inclusion in Practice

- **Description**: Accessibility isn't a checkbox; it's a foundation for exceptional learning experiences. This track explores how institutions and organizations are building sustained accessibility practices that meet evolving regulatory expectations and create truly inclusive learning environments. Sessions will address the responsible use of technology, human-centered design approaches, and strategies that build a culture of accessibility that improves outcomes while supporting institutional compliance needs.

- **Key Products**: Ally, Blackboard® LMS

- **Target Audience**: Higher Education, Business & Government

- **Key Personas:** Accessibility/Disability Services, Educator, Executive Management/Administration, Information Technology (IT) / Web Services, Instructional Design, Online Learning/eLearning, Other

Business and Government

- **Description**: Business and government organizations need learning solutions that deliver scalable, mission-ready workforce development. This track explores how organizations use Blackboard® LMS to build effective training programs that drive measurable outcomes and align skills with organizational needs. Sessions will address helping subject matter experts efficiently create pedagogically sound courses, using learning data to demonstrate training effectiveness, and innovative approaches to workforce development that meet evolving operational requirements.

- **Key Products**: Blackboard® LMS

- **Target Audience**: Government & Military, Corporate

- **Key Personas:** Emergency/Safety/Security, Executive Management/Administration, HR/Training, Information Technology (IT)/Web Services, Online Learning/eLearning

Institutional Effectiveness and Improvement

- **Description**: Institutions are rethinking how they measure and demonstrate learning impact. This track explores new models for assessment that move beyond traditional paradigms to align skills with workforce needs and produce meaningful learning outcomes. Sessions will address how institutions can structure teams and leverage data, analytics, and innovative assessment strategies to support student success, inform institutional decisions, and demonstrate value to stakeholders while maintaining academic rigor and integrity.

- **Key Products**: Accreditation, Outcomes, Program Review, Planning, Evaluate

- **Target Audience**: Higher Education

- **Key Personas:** Academic Affairs, Assessment Management, Institutional Research, Educator, Information Technology (IT), Online Learning/eLearning, Executive Management/Administration, Other

Teaching and Learning

- **Description**: The Teaching and Learning track explores all the latest trends and opportunities at the intersection of technology and pedagogy. It brings together education's sharpest minds to discuss the varied ways Blackboard® LMS can be used to benefit students and instructors, including innovative approaches to course design and assessment, mastery learning, AI, VR and other emerging technologies, data-informed learning, and much more.

- **Key Products**: Blackboard® LMS core, Blackboard® LMS premium (less focus on Ally given the dedicated Accessibility track)

- **Target Audience**: Higher Education

- **Key Personas:** Institution leaders, Faculty/Instructional Design, LMS admins, IT
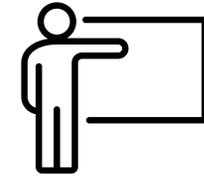
Presentation Formats

Session

This is your chance to be creative with how you show your content and engage your audience! Sessions are 45 minutes.

Panel Discussion

A group of 3-4 experts provides various perspectives in a structured and interactive setting with little or no presentation content. Panels are 45 minutes.

Flash Session

This is a highly concise presentation format, designed to deliver key methods and ideas. Flash sessions are 15 minutes.

Building Blackboard Together 2026

Submission Tips

- Give yourself time to complete your proposal submission—don't wait until the last minute!

- We recommend using a laptop or desktop computer

- Be sure to coordinate with your co-presenters before you begin

- We welcome and encourage collaborative presentations from individuals representing diverse institutions and organizations.

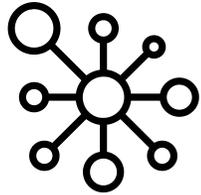- For Blackboard submitters, be sure to get permission from you manager

Building Blackboard Together 2026

Submission Checklist

- **Presenter information**: You will be asked to provide contact information and a short biography (maximum 500 characters) for each presenter.

- **Session title**: Select a title that is clear, concise, and highlights the key focus area for session content. (maximum 100 characters).

- **Session abstract:** This summary will be included in the agenda to give attendees more information on the content of your session. Abstracts should quickly communicate why an attendee should attend your session and what they will get out of it (maximum 400 characters).

- **Additional submission details:** This is where you will share additional details about your session with the review committee. Show your creativity, highlight high-level participant takeaways/learning objectives, identify session objectives, and describe any plans for audience engagement and session flow. Check out the evaluation rubric for more information on what we're looking for (maximum 3,000 characters).

- **Session format**: Choose the appropriate format for your presentation.

- **Track**: Select the program track that best aligns with your presentation.

Building Blackboard Together 2026

Submission Checklist (continued)

- **Experience level:** Sessions have varying levels of comprehension based on experience. Select the appropriate level.

- **Products/service(s):** On the event website, attendees can filter sessions by product/service. Check off anything you will be focusing on in your presentation (if applicable) so attendees can easily find your session.

- **Intended audience**: Individuals from a variety of industries attend each year. Select from higher education, corporate, or government and military.

- **Role:** Attendees occupy many roles. Choose the relevant roles from the options to help attendees identify your session.

- **Attendee access to session materials:** Would you like to share the presentation slide deck and/or session recording with attendees?

Building Blackboard Together 2026

Evaluation Rubric

Diversity of Thought and Innovation

We strive to curate a multi-faceted, diverse program for BbT. We encourage you to take a unique perspective on a pressing topic and/or showcase your innovation to differentiate your proposal.

Practical Application

Session topics need to be relevant. We look at whether a topic addresses a relevant issue and how the content of the session provides practical solutions to that issue.

Quality

The overall quality of the session topic is based on the strength of the submission. We look for unique research, specific data and proof points, tangible takeaways, replicable best practices, inspirational stories, innovative problem-solving, and examples of strong leadership.

Building Blackboard Together 2026

FAQs

- **What is the deadline for submission?** The deadline to submit a proposal for BbT is March 23, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CT.

- **How do I submit a proposal?** All proposals must be submitted online via our submission portal. We suggest using a laptop or desktop computer rather than a mobile device to ensure a successful submission.

- **May I submit more than one proposal?** Yes, but keep in mind that we typically accept only one proposal per person.

- **What if there are multiple presenters in my session?** One person should take the lead in submitting the session. This will be the main point of contact for information regarding the session.

- **When will I find out if my proposal has been accepted?** Email notifications will be sent by April 29.

- **Do presenters get a discount?** Yes! Presenters receive a discounted registration fee of $600.

More questions? Contact conference@blackboard.com

Building Blackboard Together 2026