



Town Hall Newsletter



HACKATHON HAPPENINGS

Save the Date: March 17-19

The next Unizin Hackathon event will be hosted by the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Whether you're interested in standardizing data definitions, creating compelling visualizations, or tackling your own project ideas, the hackathon is a space for collaboration and creativity.

Visit Event Page

Register Now

(T&L) COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Data Modeling and Integration

We're interested in forming a new Teaching & Learning (T&L) group to gather input and feedback on tool integrations and our data model. This group would focus on things like:

Vendor partnerships: Identifying which tools to integrate

Data modeling: Defining how vendor data should be structured in the Unizin Data Platform (UDP)

Enhancements & Innovations: Exploring ways to improve our data model with consortium input

If you're interested in joining or learning more, please reach out to data.solutions@unizin.org. We'd love to hear from you.

**We look forward to seeing you at
the Town Hall**

Date: February 11, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM EST

[Join via Zoom](#)



Spotlight: Academic Research and the UDP

Unizin members have achieved remarkable success using UDP-driven analytics and tools to support student success and institutional reporting.

Focused on methods and models that seek to understand student activity within the learning environment, member's have often employed learning science "strategies" that are both rigorously tested and have direct impact on students. Identifying students at risk and better understanding course behaviors has led to compelling approaches to learning analytics that meld the rigor of academic research in service of institutional research and student success objectives.

In an effort to underscore the potential of UDP-focused academic research, Unizin would like to draw attention to resources available to academic researchers.

- **Streamlined the cross-institutional research process** for more efficient governance and approval
- **Dedicated research support** in analytics, modeling, and grant assistance through Data Services and Support (DSS)
- **Synthetic data** as a safe tool to explore and model data.
- **Up to \$10,000 (in total) in annual research stipend** to members conducting UDP-driven research.

For the stipend proposals, please visit [this form](#) and submit by May 1, 2025.

For questions regarding support for academic research generally, please contact, contact **Kyle Unruh**, *Director of Data Services and Support*.



CALIPER COORDINATION

Advancing Caliper Integrations with Packback and D2L

Unizin continues to work with partners to enhance Caliper event data and improve interoperability across platforms.

- **Packback Enhancements:** Conversations with Packback have resumed to expand Caliper event features. Beginning in February, assignment titles, names, IDs, and Parent Question/Post IDs will be incorporated to provide richer metadata and better sequence messaging in Packback events.
- **D2L Brightspace Modeling:** We have begun working with D2L to model Brightspace data to the UCDM. With access to a test instance, we are actively creating courses, data, and interactions to refine the integration. Additionally, D2L has committed to sending both Caliper and xAPI events, further strengthening data alignment.

These efforts aim to provide more structured, meaningful insights across learning platforms, supporting members in the use of analytics to drive student success.



BUG FIXES

Canvas Incrementals

Unizin's engineering team has been leveraging Instructure's DAP client for incremental updates and recently identified a bug affecting all CD2 users. Through investigation, we discovered that bad SQL was being generated, leading to interruptions in data processing.

After reverse-engineering the issue, we opened a support ticket with Instructure, and they quickly responded—deploying a fix within a day!



DATA ADDITIONS

Blackboard Ally

We are collaborating with Blackboard Ally to integrate content accessibility reporting at scale into the Unizin Data Platform (UDP).

After completing an initial data review, we are now working with Blackboard to establish a process for daily flat file deliveries to our production instances.

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