



Town Hall Newsletter



MEMBER PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Chapman University - Panther Analytics

At Chapman University, the Panther Analytics team is using the Unizin Data Platform (UDP) to make student learning analytics in Canvas more actionable for advisors. By combining Canvas engagement metrics, LTI usage, and PeopleSoft data, the team has created reports that help identify students and courses that may need additional support.

Every Sunday, advisors receive an automatically generated email summarizing key insights from the week, such as students who may be struggling or showing signs of disengagement. The concise, prioritized format gives advisors timely, digestible information they can act on right away.

This work builds on shared innovation within the Unizin community. Chapman adapted code from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Course Insights and faculty-facing dashboards, developed by Chad Brassil, and reimagined it for an advisor-focused audience. In addition to the weekly reports, advisors can access a live dashboard at any time for deeper exploration.

Chapman’s Panther Analytics project is turning data into meaningful support for student success, and is a clear example of the power of collaboration across the consortium!



UNIZIN WEBINAR SERIES

UCI - Spark

Unizin has launched a Webinar Series highlighting how member institutions are using data and digital tools to enhance teaching and learning. These 60-minute sessions feature practical insights, emerging frameworks, and campus-level success stories that we hope will inspire others across the consortium.

Thanks to all who joined our latest webinar, where Jeremy Thacker and Ray Vadrnais shared how UCI Spark, a student-facing application built using data from the Unizin Data Platform, is empowering students with timely, personalized data insights. As highlighted in the webinar, Spark integrates Canvas usage data, co-curricular activity, and other key signals to surface “sparks” that gently guide students toward effective study habits, engagement opportunities, and resource connections. If you weren’t able to attend, the recording is available on the [Unizin YouTube Channel](#).

Penn State - Performance Outlook

Mark your calendars for our next webinar in the series, focusing on Penn State’s Performance Outlook. [Join us](#) on December 4th at 2 pm ET/1 pm CT to learn how they’re delivering weekly risk metrics to advisers using data from the Unizin Data Platform (UDP) and leveraging real-time Canvas data to support timely, data-informed decisions.

If you have a story, use case, or tool to share, we’d love to hear from you. Let us know if you’d like to present at a future webinar!



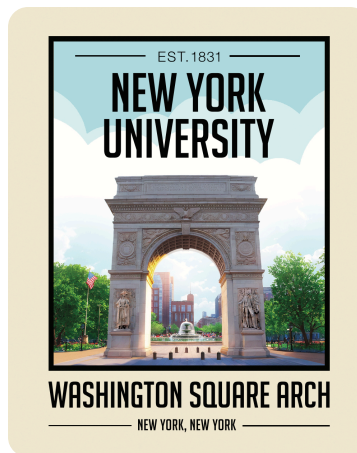
TOOL UPDATES

Packback

A recent issue with Packback event data has been resolved. However, it will require a minor change to how those events are queried going forward. We'll cover the details and next steps in the upcoming town hall.

Blackboard Ally

Good news for institutions using Blackboard Ally! The Ally API is now consistently reliable for pulling institution-wide accessibility data. Unizin is exploring a new approach to streamline this process by making daily API calls on behalf of our members who use Ally and automatically dropping the resulting CSV files into a secure Google Cloud Storage (GCS) bucket. From there, the data can be seamlessly fed into BigQuery for analysis and reporting.



D2L BRIGHTSPACE MODELING (NYU)

The D2L Brightspace data pipeline is now up and running, and the SIS data integration is nearly complete. Validation efforts are underway for the context store and to ensure data accuracy at parity with existing reporting. Data mart connections will also be coming soon.



DATA MARTS RELEASE

UDP Marts v1.0.91

UDP Marts release 1.0.91 is now live! This release delivers several enhancements across the UDP Data Marts. While it includes a few new fields, most of the updates focus on refining filters and improving event time logic. We've also introduced a few schema changes like adding enrollment status and role status fields alongside role in key datamarts, giving analysts more control when narrowing data to specific groups like active, enrolled students.

For more information on what was included in the release, check out the [release notes](#)!



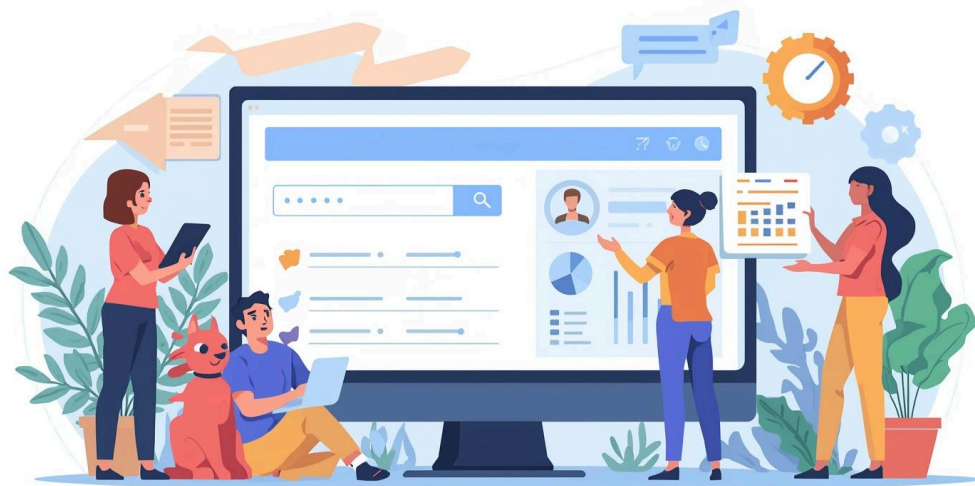
EDUCAUSE 2025

Highlights

Unizin was proud to present our poster, “Using Data Analytics to Support Teaching and Learning at Scale: A Unizin Data Book,” at this year’s EDUCAUSE Conference. The proposed Unizin Data Book will bring together learner, learning process, and learning environment data from across the consortium, representing more than 850,000 students at 16 institutions. Built on the Unizin Common Data Model, it will allow members an understanding of learner data and analytics aggregated across the consortium, and serve as a compelling representation of learners and learning processes across the United States.

This year’s EDUCAUSE was both energizing and thoughtful. While AI dominated the conversation, many sessions and hallway discussions took a balanced view of its opportunities and challenges. Joy Buolamwini’s keynote, Unmasking AI: Protecting What Is Human in a World of Machines, stood out for its focus on bias in AI systems and the importance of keeping human values at the center of innovation.

We were especially honored when former Chapman University CIO Helen Norris highlighted Unizin as an example of how “collective will” can become “individual capability.” Her comments captured what makes our consortium so powerful: when institutions come together to share data, research, and ideas, each one gains the strength and insight to drive meaningful change on its own campus. It was a proud moment that reinforced the value of collaboration at the heart of Unizin’s mission.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

User Research - Reflective Teaching

We're developing a proof of concept for an LTI application focused on reflective teaching and want your input! If you're a faculty member and are interested in participating in user research and helping us shape this tool using UDP data, please email us at info@unizin.org. Your feedback will directly inform the design and functionality of the application! The first 40 participants will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card as a token of appreciation for their time.

Join the Unizin Community in Slack!

The [Unizin Community Slack space](#) is the best place to connect with colleagues across the consortium. Whether you have a quick question, an idea to share, or just want to see what others are working on, jump in! Your voice helps move our shared work forward, and we're always here to support and collaborate.

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