



Blackboard

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## Press Releases

### **Blackboard Appoints Sakai Foundation Board Member Charles Severance to Lead Company's Sakai Initiatives**

*Founding Chief Architect Will Guide Blackboard's Sakai Strategy*

WASHINGTON – March 26, 2012 – Blackboard Inc. today announced the appointment of Charles Severance, a longtime leader and one of the founders of the Sakai community, to a senior role to lead the company's initiative on the Sakai open source learning management system (LMS).

Severance's work is part of a new business launched by Blackboard – Blackboard Education Open Source Services – to support institutions using open source learning management systems like Moodle and Sakai. The new business includes the teams from Moodlerooms and NetSpot, two leading providers of services and support to institutions using Moodle that were acquired by Blackboard.

Severance has worked in a series of roles to advance the Sakai project. He previously served as Executive Director of the Sakai Foundation and was the founding Chief Architect of the Sakai Project. He is currently a Board Member of the Sakai Foundation, and he serves as Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Michigan's School of Information.

“We're excited to welcome Chuck to our team,” said Michael L. Chasen, Blackboard CEO. “He's been a tireless leader in the learning technology and standards communities, and he brings a tremendous amount of expertise and insight that will be critical to our support for institutions using Sakai.”

In addition to his work in the Sakai community, Severance has also been an advocate for open standards in education technology and has worked closely with the IMS Global Learning Consortium as part of that work.

“Blackboard is doing some extraordinary work and challenging preconceived notions of how companies can add real value to the industry,” said Severance, who will be Chief Sakai Strategist at Blackboard. “I’m looking forward to leveraging Blackboard’s new focus and investment in open source to bring new value to institutions using Sakai.”

Severance is author of several books, including *Sakai: Free as in Freedom*, describing the early days of the open source Sakai project.

For more information about Blackboard’s work to support open source, please visit <http://www.blackboard.com/opensource> and <http://www.blackboard.com/latestnews>. An open letter from Blackboard CEO Michael Chasen and Ray Henderson is available at <http://www.blackboard.com/openletter>.

#### About Blackboard Inc.

Blackboard Inc. is a global leader in enterprise technology and innovative solutions that improve the experience of millions of students and learners around the world every day. Blackboard's solutions allow thousands of higher education, K-12, professional, corporate, and government organizations to extend teaching and learning online, facilitate campus commerce and security, and communicate more effectively with their communities. Founded in 1997, Blackboard is headquartered in Washington, D.C., with offices in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

Any statements in this press release about future expectations, plans and prospects for Blackboard represent the Company’s views as of the date of this press release. Actual results may differ materially as a result of various important factors. The Company anticipates that subsequent events and developments will cause the Company’s views to change. However, while the Company may elect to update these statements at some point in the future, the Company specifically disclaims any obligation to do so.

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