



## Sakai Newsletter

April 5, 2012

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### 1. Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment Community Coordinator

Following the complete transition of a key member of staff from the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment to the Sakai Open Academic Environment, the Sakai Foundation is pleased to advertise the following post:

Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment Community Coordinator

Full-time position (40 hours / week expected)

Core Responsibility:

To ensure the continued high quality and timeliness of Sakai CLE releases, on a schedule that is appropriate for institutions depending on the CLE worldwide.

Salary: In the range \$80,000-\$120,000

Required priorities (in order from most to least important):

1. Community coordination - Attend (and lead when necessary) the weekly CLE team / release meeting and organize other meetings as necessary (security meeting, JIRA triage, contributed patches review). Provide periodic announcements and meeting summaries to the community (and TCC) via established communication channels.
2. Security coordination - Monitor CLE security issues via established Sakai Community security protocols and send out alerts and security emails. Keep track of what is fixed, what is outstanding, and what others have said they would fix. Follow up with community resources to ensure issues are resolved and tested. Manage the list of security contacts.
3. QA coordination - Provide QA team with outline of testing needs and provide mechanisms/scaffolding for the QA team to track progress. Identify QA resources in the community to assist with testing. Provide QA status updates to the CLE team and community. Work with the CLE and QA teams to determine when a release is sufficiently tested and ready for release. Undertake QA testing to fill in gaps or backup the rest of the QA team when necessary.
4. CLE JIRA issue management - Work with the CLE team to review outstanding blocker/critical tickets for the upcoming release using the Sakai Community JIRA issue tracking instance. Follow up with developers who are assigned to fix issues and ensure they are resolved in a timely manner. Identify community resources to resolve issues that are unassigned (review the list of unassigned issues at least once a month). Assist with review of incoming JIRA tickets and ensure issues are not stagnating.
5. Infrastructure support - Oversee and ensure that there is adequate support coverage for Sakai Foundation/Community infrastructure and provide backup coverage as necessary. Current systems include: mailing list management (mailman), version tracking system (SVN), issue tracker (JIRA), wiki (confluence), continuous integration (Jenkins), etc.
6. Documentation management – Cleanup and management of the Sakai wiki space and release documentation. Identify out-of-date information and follow-up with community authors to update information or move it to an archive. Assist with confluence cleanup and documentation updates (especially around releases and community volunteering) as needed.
7. Licensing management - Ensure that corporate and individual Sakai CLE contributors have executed Corporate Contributor License Agreements (CCLA) and Contributor License Agreements (CLA). Conduct periodic license audits of Sakai CLE software to ensure conformity to requirements of the ECL (the open source license used by the CLE product).

It will be helpful for this position to be able to provide backup for branch management, issue resolution (Sakai development), and other technical work, however, that is not a

primary responsibility. Initially little (if any) technical work is expected; working with and learning from the current technical community will be expected, however.

This position will report to the Sakai Foundation Executive Director but will receive direction and be expected to work closely with the Sakai CLE TCC (Technical Coordination Committee).

Desired qualifications:

- Extensive familiarity with the Sakai CLE product
- Experience working within, and communicating with the Sakai community
- Experience administering and supporting services (e.g. JIRA, Mailman)
- Familiarity with the Sakai CLE source code
- Experience working with open source software and communities
- Experience of, and comfort with, remote working
- Comfortable with public speaking and meeting facilitation

Applications should be made to Ian Dolphin, Executive Director, the Sakai Foundation, by email at [iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org](mailto:iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org) . They should contain a complete curriculum vitae, and a short supporting statement detailing experience in the required areas.

Closing date: 27th April

Regards

Ian

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Ian Dolphin  
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation

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## 2. Register Now for the Jasig Sakai Joint Conference

June 10-15, 2012

<https://www.concentra-cms.com/c/2012-jasig-sakai>

Growing Community; Growing Possibilities: Open innovative technologies for learning, teaching, and research

Registration is now open! Here is your chance to participate in the coming together of two established open source communities in their inaugural joint conference. There will be something for everyone --

Pre-conference seminars in uPortal, uMobile, Sakai CLE, Sakai OAE, Sakai OSP, CAS, Bedework, 2-3-98, Scheduling Assistant, and OpenCast Matterhorn on Sunday, June 10th.

Presentations, Birds of a Feather discussions, and other concurrent sessions on Monday, June 11th to lunchtime Thursday, June 14th in the following tracks: Awareness and Advocacy, Design and Development, Deployment and Integration, Expanded Solutions, Getting Started, Leadership and Future Directions, Teaching, Learning, Portfolios and Research, and Technical Management.

Chances to work face-to-face with other developers and strategic planners on: Sakai CLE, Sakai OAE, and the Jasig products.

**WHEN:**

June 10 - Pre-conference Seminars and Bootcamps

June 11-14 - Main Conference

June 14-15 - Project Collaboration Time and Developer Days

**WHERE:**

Westin Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta

210 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30303

Hotel Direct: 404-659-1400

Group Reservations: 1-800-937-8461

Online reservations: <http://bit.ly/jasigsakaihotel2012>

Group code: Jasig-Sakai2012 Conference

Early registration ends May 11th!

LEARN MORE (and keep checking back for updates):

<http://www.jasig.org/jasig-sakai-conference-2012>

<http://www.sakaiproject.org/jasig-sakai-conference-2012>

Help us Grow Communities and Grow Possibilities! Register now.

<https://www.concentra-cms.com/c/2012-jasig-saka>

See you in Atlanta!

-The Planning and Program Committees for the Jasig Sakai Joint Conference

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### 3. Jasig and Sakai Announce Name for Proposed Foundation and Membership Vote on Merger

Shortly after the 2011 EDUCAUSE Conference, Sakai and Jasig announced a community naming process for the new, merged organization we proposed a year before. We wanted suggestions for Foundation names that were memorable and reflected the core values of the merged organization which we previously articulated in the "Value of a Common Foundation". In announcing the outcomes of this naming process today, it is important to emphasize that the new organization will have a strong focus on existing software communities and project brands. Names such as Sakai and uPortal won't go away, they will remain an essential element of reaching constituents old and new.

The Founding Board, which was elected by the Jasig and Sakai Foundation Boards in October (2011) to take the lead on merger decisions, is excited to announce that the name of the new organization we are proposing will be the Apereo. The name is a combination of community suggestions, and represents the fusion of two Latin words, "aperto", which means "open" and "mereo", meaning merit. Given the importance of openness and meritocracy, in all its forms and flavors, to both organizations as well as the larger open-source movement, the merging of these Latin words to form Apereo resonated with the Founding Board. Combining the suggestions was also helpful in securing the domain name.

We will begin to use Apereo as the name of the proposed new organization in our communication moving forward. However this is not intended to indicate the merger is complete; nor assumed as, most importantly, a majority vote by our collective membership is required to gain approval. To this end, the announcement of the proposed Foundation name is being used to launch a larger communication initiative. Over the coming four weeks we will release additional information and create opportunities for conversations about the path ahead. These will include discussion lists, webinars, and other opportunities for community engagement on issues related to the merger. This will culminate in a membership vote to approve the merger which will take place in late April, 2012.

Finally, those who suggested the names we selected have generously donated the prizes we were offering to participants in our forthcoming June conference. We'll come up with some exciting ideas to put them to good use at the event!

If you have questions or comments on the name please post them to the Jasig-Sakai Collaboration Google Group (subscribe at: <http://groups.google.com/group/jasig-sakai-collaboration>)

Joshua Baron  
Senior Academic Technology Officer  
Marist College  
Josh.Baron@marist.edu

Note: You can find PDF versions of this announcement in English, Spanish (Español) and French (Français) at [https://groups.google.com/group/jasig-sakai-collaboration/browse\\_thread/thread/f5dcc82ff0fa5816#](https://groups.google.com/group/jasig-sakai-collaboration/browse_thread/thread/f5dcc82ff0fa5816#) Additional translations can be found on the site, <http://groups.google.com/group/jasig-sakai-collaboration>

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#### 4. Jasig and Sakai Release Merger-Related Documentation for Review and Comment

Colleagues,

The Jasig-Sakai Joint Working Group and the Apereo Founding Board are pleased to be able to share with our communities and the larger public a series of important documents related to the proposed merger between our two organizations. Although some of these documents have been released in the past in earlier versions, all of them contain new and updated information. We are also releasing, for the first time, the proposed Transitional Apereo Membership Fee Structure that will allow current members to understand how their membership fees will be affected by the merger if it is approved. Below is a brief list of each of the documents being released today.

As announced recently, we are releasing these materials in advance of a planned membership vote on the merger as means to allow our members to better understand the rationale for merging, the value we believe it will bring to our work, and the benefits we hope to derive from it over the long term. We are also hoping that these materials will stimulate a broader discussion across and between the Jasig and Sakai communities about the merger and would like to encourage everyone to post your questions, comments and concerns to the previously established Jasig-Sakai Collaboration Google Group (see <http://groups.google.com/group/jasig-sakai-collaboration>).

#### JASIG-SAKAI MERGER-RELATED DOCUMENTATION

1. Proposed Transitional Apereo Membership Fee Structure -- This document will provide the history, rationale and details associated with the initial membership fee structure that is being proposed for the new organization. Both the Jasig and Sakai Board of Directors endorsed this plan.
2. The Value of a Common Foundation: The Case for Apereo -- This is the third public release of this "living" document, which discusses the rationale and benefits associated

with the merger and has been updated to reflect prior comments and concerns from our communities.

3. Updated Apereo Bylaws -- This final draft of the bylaws has been updated significantly since its initial release in August 2011 and has also been endorsed by both the Jasig and Sakai Boards.

4. Jasig-Sakai Merger FAQ -- We have developed an FAQ based on the questions and issues that our communities have raised over the past year, and will continue to add to it as additional questions are posed.

All of these documents can now be found on the Apereo website (<http://www.apereo.org>) although it should be noted that this basic website is simply being used at this point as a convenient place to host these files (as opposed to duplicating them on our current websites) and is not intended to "brand" or market Apereo, nor suggest that the merger is in anyway finalized.

Within the next week a series of webinars will be scheduled to provide opportunities for "live" interactions with Jasig and Sakai Board members.

Ian Dolphin  
[iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org](mailto:iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org)

Joshua Baron  
[Josh.Baron@marist.edu](mailto:Josh.Baron@marist.edu)

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## 5. Jasig-Sakai 2012 Conference: Project Collaboration Time

Immediately following the main proceedings at Jasig-Sakai 2012, the conference will be hosting Project Collaboration Time for active contributors and adopters in all the various community projects to get together face-to-face and collaborate. This will take place on Thursday afternoon (June 14th) and all day Friday (June 15th).

This time can be used for project planning, technical discussion, roadmap work, joint development, or whatever a given project/community finds to be productive while they can work face-to-face. Examples for the use of this time include the "Project Coordination Meetings" typically held in some Sakai projects and the "Developer Days" typically held in some Jasig projects.

These sessions are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend, but the focus is on collaboration amongst active contributors working to make the project better for everyone in the community (this includes all forms of contribution, e.g., development, documentation, implementation, requirements, etc.).

There will be several rooms available for this purpose. At a minimum, there will be tables available for small groups to get together in a shared space. If projects need a more dedicated space for a larger group, they need to get those requirements to Jennifer Cummings at <jenn@concentra-cms.com> by Friday, April 20th.

Each project/community governance group should be communicating their plans for Project Collaboration Time to their contributor community quickly. Conference attendees will need to indicate their intent to participate in Project Collaboration Time at the time of registration (there are no additional costs, though) and will also be making travel plans soon.

Please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to seeing you all collaborate in Atlanta!

- Jasig-Sakai 2012 Conference Planning Committee

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## 6. uMobile Community Call Archived Available

In case you missed the March 2012 uMobile Community Call, the presentation and audio has been archived at <http://www.slideshare.net/uportal/umobile-development-strategies>. The call discussed information for developers at institutions considering adopting uMobile as part of their mobile strategy.

The agenda included:

- uMobile development options and tradeoffs
- Adding a mobile view to an existing portlet
- Handling web-proxied portlets
- Deploying the uMobile native app
- Titanium native module development
- Where to go for more information
- Q&A

Jim Helwig  
jim.helwig@doit.wisc.edu



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## 7. Open Position at Columbia University

Columbia has a open position for a Sakai System Administrator. Information about the position is available at:

[jobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=129227](http://jobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=129227)

Thanks,

Maneesha Aggarwal  
Maneesha@columbia.edu

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## 8. Virginia Tech Job Opening: Lead Web Developer Software Engineer

Virginia Tech invites nominations and applications for the position of Lead Web Development Software Engineer in the Office of Learning Technologies (LT).

Virginia Tech, which is in Blacksburg, Virginia, is a world-class research university, working with cutting edge and enterprise technologies. We are looking for a talented software engineer to lead our web development efforts and our efforts to work on our Scholar system, based upon the Sakai open-source platform. If you are serious about advancing your career to the next level, and working with exciting and new technologies, then Virginia Tech is the place for you! We offer a competitive salary and generous benefits.

Virginia Tech is an ideal place to live, learn, and work. We are a nationally ranked research institution, and Blacksburg has been named as a top-ten dream town to live in.

This position is responsible for leading development for all technology services provided by the LT team, most notably Scholar, the Faculty Development Institute, Element K, and WordPress. This position is the senior software engineer and has direct responsibility to lead other software engineers in the department which includes mentoring other engineers, coding, designing, developing, and all phases of application development and integration with other systems. The position is robustly involved across the department with other project team members, management, and users of the system. This position furthermore is the technology ambassador for the Learning Technologies group.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Leading Development Efforts - Setting standards, meeting deadlines, and coaching other developers. Prioritizing workloads, setting development schedules, and leading

group discussions about meeting university requirements and schedules. Works collaboratively with other teams including support, quality assurance, and usability to meet both project goals and organizational objectives. Utilizes best practices to insure customer service and compatibility. Works with the systems integration team to put development projects into pilot and production stages.

- Open Source Project Lead - Participates in global open-source projects such as Sakai, and develops high quality, documented code that can be contributed back by Virginia Tech to the project. Determines system requirements for new and existing systems by working with end users and project stakeholders. Documents designs and implements these to meet requirements.

- Develops Applications - Works with existing applications and creates new applications in enterprise systems. Works and communicates with Virginia Tech IT developers and global developers to share information and establish common knowledge. Provides customizations to integrate, enhance, and maintain vendor software and enterprise systems. Tests work products to insure end user satisfaction and reliability.

#### Required Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will need to have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Engineering, or similar field. Further requirements are as follows:

- Significant experience developing, maintaining, and troubleshooting complex, distributed web applications using Java.
- Familiarity with Java development tools and libraries, such as Maven, Eclipse, Hibernate, JSF, and Spring.
- Understanding of relational databases, SQL, and data abstraction methodologies.
- Demonstrated ability to independently implement code based on high level design documentation and requirements
- Ability to work collaboratively with end users and project stakeholders and to adjust designs based on user needs
- Demonstrated experience in best programming practices and application documentation
- Exceptional interpersonal skills, specifically in presenting complex technical topics to non-technical audiences

#### Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Computer Science, Engineering, or a related field, or experience that equates to a Master's Degree.
- Experience with Sakai CLE
- Proficiency with Ruby, PERL, and/or Bash
- Experience with Linux command line environment
- Familiarity with XML-related standards including XSD and XSLT

- Experience with protocols related to network applications, such as HTTP, SSL, SMTP, LDAP, and SOAP
- Experience as a developer in a higher education setting
- Experience with open-source development
- Experience developing mobile applications
- Experience in strategic initiatives
- Experience managing small teams of developers

To Apply:

To review the job description and to apply online, please go to <https://listings.jobs.vt.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=195126>

For more information, please contact David Ferraro, Senior Recruiter at 540-231-7773.

Virginia Tech is an AA/EEO. Virginia Tech has a strong commitment to the principle of diversity and, in that spirit, seeks a broad spectrum of candidates including women, people of color, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Brian T. Broniak  
Director of Online Learning and Collaboration Services  
Virginia Tech  
[bbroniak@vt.edu](mailto:bbroniak@vt.edu)

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## 9. Events

Jasig/Sakai Annual Conference  
Sunday, June 10 - Friday, June 15, 2012  
Supplementary half-day Jasig and Sakai Seminars on Sunday, June 10  
Westin Peachtree Plaza  
Atlanta, Georgia

I Congreso Iberoamericano de Sakai  
16th and 18th October, 2012  
Rio de Janeiro