# Sakai Supports Open Education Resources

Open source collaborative learning environment facilitates eLearning worldwide

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Open CourseWare led teachers and faculty throughout the world to understand the value of open education resources and to contribute to the rapidly expanding availability of high quality open education resources. The collaborative efforts have moved from offering individual documents, files and software to make available complete courses and course learning sequences with a record of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of teaching and learning.

The Sakai Collaborative Learning Environment is a software development project capturing the collective expertise and experience of the six primary collaborators—the University of Michigan, Indiana University, Stanford University, MIT, University of California Berkeley and Foothill College. Eighty-four colleges and universities participate in the Sakai partners program bringing diverse and rich expertise to the improvement of the Sakai Collaborative Learning Environment and its implementations. The University of Michigan and Indiana University implemented Sakai the first year of the two-year development. These two implementations now serve more than 120,000 faculty and students. Twenty-one colleges and universities have begun Sakai implementations. Sakai partners from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, South Africa, and Sweden are improving internationalization and localization and support of European Union curriculum reform and teaching methods.

The Sakai partners also develop software components, called "tools," to provide additional capabilities—"tools" that facilitate the use of library materials, that record and distributed grades, that manage assignments and assess student progress, that present SCORM-compliant learning content, that support audio and video conferencing, and other locally needed capabilities.

The Sakai project is committed to integration of digital repositories that indexes, stores, and retrieves open education resources. Sakai tools present the various formats of learning materials emerging from the open courseware efforts.

Sakai has offered training on the installation and use of the Sakai software in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Sakai partners have provided Sakai training in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Germany. Sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the Agency for International Development, formal courses have been offered in Armenia and Algeria. Sakai staff are working with national ministries of education to support eLearning initiatives.

Sakai is cooperates with other eLearning initiatives—the Moodle project and LAMS are two examples of recent cooperation. Sakai and LAMS integration was announced October 2005.

Sakai is more than software. It is a broad partnership of those deeply committed to improving college and university education worldwide through technology.