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## ANGEL Takes Flight at Seattle University

by Dr. Mike Clay and Jim Fowler, Seattle University

"Faculty reception of ANGEL at SU has been outstanding" reports Dr. Mike Clay, Seattle University director of learning technology. Within two weeks of the initial ANGEL roll-out, the university had to expand its ANGEL license to cover 7,500 users, nearly twice the initial estimate.

Are the Jesuits at Seattle University responsible for ANGEL's popularity? Could be, but Clay and Jim Fowler, SU's chief information officer, attribute ANGEL's immediate success to a combination things:

- faculty taking ownership in the decision-making process,
- a focused promotion featuring faculty training, and
- faculty commitment to connecting with students through technology.

For the past four years, a small group of SU faculty has used WebCT, but many other potential users found WebCT too difficult to learn and use. During spring 2004, the Teaching and Learning Technology Round-table (TLTR) committee researched and recommended a course management system that would serve SU for the next three years. The TLTR committee compared the

features, admin tools, support, and value of three products: ANGEL, Blackboard, and WebCT. The committee unanimously recommended ANGEL. Ease of use was one of the determining factors.

Once ANGEL was chosen, an 'ANGEL team' of Seattle University Office of Information Technology and ANGEL Learning staff developed a deployment process and installation plan. SU ANGEL system administrators, Bill Hill and Rebecca Watson, migrated WebCT courses to ANGEL and developed a faculty training program during the summer. By the end of September, 217 faculty and staff had completed Bill and Rebecca's 'ANGEL Basic Training' and "earned their wings."

With the fall quarter 2004 ANGEL rollout, SU faculty had 145 courses with 2,569 students in ANGEL. Batch processing links ANGEL with Datatel's Colleague information. Don Sullivan, director of administrative systems at Seattle University, is developing a program that will automatically create an ANGEL course, enroll, and add/drop students for every course section during a given quarter. In this way, every student enrolled in a class at Seattle University will have an ANGEL course site ready and waiting.