



Monday Matters: ODU Digital Transformation Initiative

From Dodge, Gail <gdodge@odu.edu>

Date Tue 9/2/2025 8:41 AM

To Dodge, Gail <gdodge@odu.edu>

Cc Whitfield, Tiffany L. <tlwhitfi@odu.edu>

Dear Colleagues:

As you heard from President Hemphill at our Welcome Event on Aug. 20, ODU is embarking on a major digital transformation that will enable us to compete effectively for students, integrate AI into teaching, research, and operations, introduce cutting-edge learning technologies, and address student success issues. The key aspects of this initiative are:

1. Upgrading 180 classrooms with cutting-edge learning technologies.
2. Supporting course redesign for high-DFW courses to improve student outcomes and retention.
3. Transitioning all bachelor's and master's-level online programs and classes to an 8-week, asynchronous format by Fall 2026.
4. Integrating artificial intelligence throughout academics, research, and operations.
5. Establishing minimum Canvas use standards across all courses (on campus and online).
6. Offering robust faculty support, including training, research resources, and individualized assistance for using upgraded classrooms.
7. Enhancing research capacity with advanced digital tools, data access, and infrastructure to support ODU's R-1 mission.

In his email on Aug 29 the Provost provided links to additional information about this initiative, including

 [FAQs](#).

ODU is making this major investment at a time when higher education is under tremendous pressure, from the enrollment cliff to concerns about the return on investment for an expensive college education. This is a period of intense change on many fronts, including higher education. We are moving forward now to stay current and competitive.

The fundamentals of our mission have not changed. We will continue to provide outstanding opportunities to students as an R1 institution for a relatively modest cost. We offer upward mobility for students, and we change lives every day. Students and faculty engage in research that advances our knowledge of the world and brings benefits to society. What we cannot do is stay fixed in the face of the changes coming to higher education.

We will work together to manage these changes. Faculty interested in taking the lead with learning to use the new classroom technologies would have a major impact in helping us to capitalize on these capabilities. Please let your chair or me know if you are interested in being one of our early adopters.

Best Regards,

Gail

Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

Sept. 12 (4 – 5:30): Science Friday – Speakers: Gloria Massamba N’Siala (BIOL) and Sage Hawn (PSYC) [PSB 1100]
Sept. 25 (12:30): Brown bag with the Dean to discuss academic leadership [Location TBA]
Oct. 2 (12:30): College-wide meeting with Ken Fridley, Vice President for DivRED [OCNPS 200]
Oct. 3 (4 – 5:30): Science Friday – Speakers: Sarah Elkhe (PSYC) and Rui Ning (CS) [PSB 1100]
Oct. 11 (10 – 1): Reign in Science – college-wide science outreach event for the public [Elkhorn Ave]
Nov. 7 (4 – 5:30): Science Friday – Speakers: Mary Still (PSYC) and Rishi Drolia (BIOL) [PSB 1100]