As part of their digital transformation efforts, colleges and universities are becoming more flexible and agile so they can respond more quickly to shifting institutional needs and goals. Survey respondents estimate that their institutions will move closer to an ideal level of digital transformation over the next five years. A technology environment that enables Dx is characterized by enterprise architecture that is agile, flexible, and aligned with institutional strategy. IT leaders must adopt innovative practices and create digital environments that meet those needs.

Southern Methodist University combined the various IT departments around campus into a single organization in their Office of Information Technology. OIT has since created data architecture and data marts for users across campus—enabling flexible and agile use of data for reporting and research.

Developing a collaborative workforce

Institutions are embracing workforce transformation, resulting in a blending of roles and blurring of boundaries between IT and academic/administrative/research areas. Leaders must prepare for changes to existing jobs and the emergence of new roles and necessary skill sets across the entire higher education workforce.

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya is democratizing IT project management by creating committees full of academic, administrative, and IT staff to help decide on resource allocation for IT projects.

Creating transformative culture

A Dx-ready culture is a focused one. It is zeroed in on the institution’s goals, adept at change management, and agile and flexible enough to rapidly adapt to changing needs. Leaders need to encourage an openness to new ways of thinking and working and an aptitude for more efficient, data-informed decision-making.

The top barrier to Dx is insufficient cross-institutional planning. Over half of survey respondents said insufficient cross-institutional planning or coordination is a major barrier to Dx.

Arizona State University has hired a Chief Culture Officer for its University Technology Office, enabling flexible and agile collaboration by creating new communities and structures across campus.

*EDUCAUSE QuickPoll: Institutional Engagement in Digital Transformation

Thanks to Spectrum Enterprise for partnering with EDUCAUSE on the case studies featured in this infographic.