



**SAIT**

# The secret ingredients for large scale projects

SAIT's Implementation Story

August 2, 2021



Bluenotes **GLOBAL** 2021  
VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

# Southern Alberta Institute of Technology



# Agenda

1. The implementation story
2. Strategy
3. Quick wins
4. Challenges and surprises
5. Finding the finish line

# SAIT's Implementation: It began with a simple recipe

If you can run a pilot,  
run a pilot

- Small data sets
- Small audience
- Low risk if something goes wrong





# SAIT's Implementation: The first plan exploded



Shifting the pilot date meant losing a semester of feedback.

We needed an approach that covered the desired scope without losing the fall, using the limited resources available.

# Finding our strategy: Phases and Teams

Identify the essentials.  
Everything else can wait.

- Which projects?
- Which features?

Our biggest asset is our audience.

- Who makes the decisions?
- Who can help us?



# Phased approach

## Phase 1 "Now"

Credit course evaluations  
Questionnaires based on delivery  
Program evaluations (exit)  
Reports to replace what already existed  
Awareness campaign  
Data extracts  
Authentication  
Brightspace LMS integration

## Phase 2 "Not now"

Non-credit course evaluations  
Special case questionnaires  
Program Entrance Surveys  
New reports  
Academic development program  
Automated data feeds  
Beyond the basics

# The teams

Building a Feedback Matters community  
at SAIT



**Project management:** Business Intelligence and Analytics

**Decision making:** Academic Council representatives

**Data validation:** Academic school coordinators

**Testing:** Academic representatives

**Systems integration:** Information Technology Services

**Faculty resources:** Centre for Learning and Teaching

**Communications:** Student association and Communications liaison



# Quick wins – what worked well

- Awareness campaign
  - Blue Cafés
  - Employee and Student Bulletins
  - Information booth pop-ups
- Program evaluations October 2019
- Course evaluations end of November
- Brightspace pop-up is our favourite feature



**34,000 responses**

# Challenges



Two authentication protocols at SAIT made it impossible to use SSO with Blue

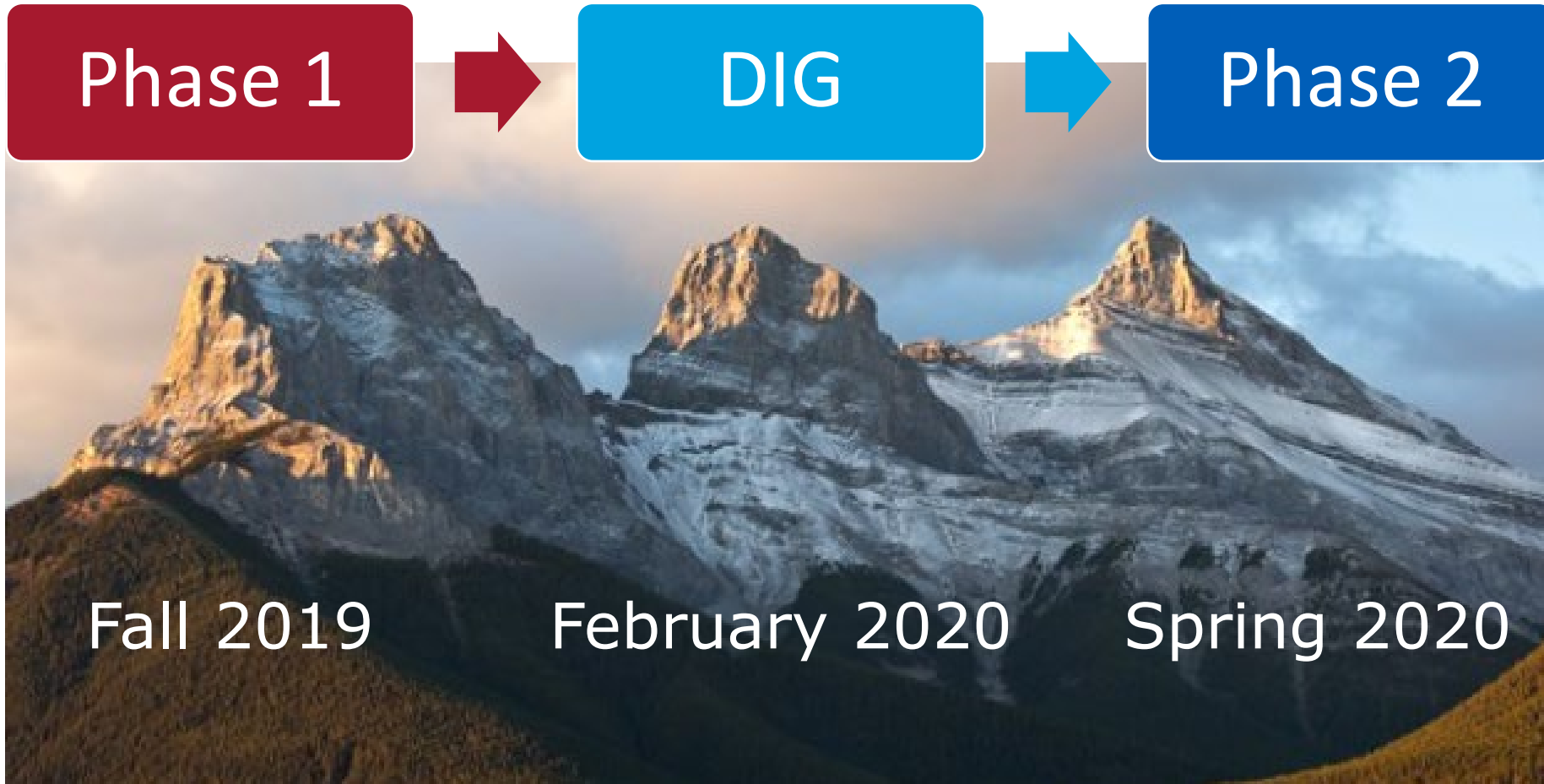


Surveying all credit courses sounds straightforward, but there are always exceptions



There were inconsistencies in the data that were breaking the rules. We needed DIG.

# Adjustments to the plan



# Surprise!

Until further notice all courses will be online



Do you want to evaluate courses?

When and with which form?

Which students are finishing and when?



# Finding the finish line

- Data integration and automation
- Regular communications with academic leadership
- Expanded project and reporting scope
- Getting beyond the basics with enhanced features



# Interested in SAIT's Phase 2 enhancements?

## Icing on the Blue Cake: Leveraging Blue with Unique Enhancements

Tuesday, August 3, 4:00 PM-4:40 PM MDT

# Thank you!

Corey [corey.buchanan@sait.ca](mailto:corey.buchanan@sait.ca)

Krimo [kbouaou@explorance.com](mailto:kbouaou@explorance.com)

