Blurring the Boundaries:
Creating Collaborative Space for Excellence
and Innovation

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Context

The **Center for Excellence and Innovation** (Faculty Resource Center) at MSU, Mankato was developed in summer 2012. It houses three campus-wide Centers as well as several other services including:

< Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) for faculty professional development)

< Center for Excellence in Scholarship and Research(CESR)

< Educational Technologists and

< An Assessment Coordinator

to serve faculty in a "one-stop shopping" venue.

Participant Outcomes

◆ **Participants will become aware of how diverse learning spaces are being used to contribute to faculty collaboration and professional learning. You will identify possibilities for creating diverse learning spaces on your own campus.**

The Problem

◆ **The notions of "life-long" and "life-wide learning" as well as the development of digital technologies will radically transform the learning environment for both faculty and students. As professional developers we must think how to support faculty in both individual and collaborative inquiry and learning.**

Potential

- An individual's life contains many parallel and interconnected journeys and experiences and that these individually and collectively contribute to the ongoing personal and potentially professional development of the person" (Jackson, 2010 cited in Keppel, Souter & Riddle, 2012).

Possibilities for Development

- ◆ **Situation**
- ◆ **Self**
- ◆ **Support**
- ◆ **Strategies**

Principles

◆ **Seven principles of <u>learning space design</u> contribute to this collaborative, learner-centered environment: comfort, aesthetics, flow, equity, blending (a mixture of technological and face-to-face pedagogical resources), affordance (the learning environment provides the users, including such things as kitchens, natural light, wifi, private spaces, writing surfaces, sofas etc.) and repurposing (potential for multiple uses).**

Networks

◆ **Increasingly, networks are being developed that provide social relations and knowledge that in turn contribute to individual knowledge and understanding.**

Barriers

 ◆ **However, for many faculty finding these connections and networks prove difficult due to conflicting schedules, heavy workloads and lack of proximity.**

Barriers

◆ **Additionally, though we understand that diversity of thought can prove beneficial, opportunities to connect across disciplines is often limited.**

Isolation

- Campus structures that place faculty in isolated work spaces limit these interactions.

Intentional Spaces

Our institution desired to intentionally create such a space where a variety of formal and informal; short-term and long-term; face to face, hybrid and virtual Professional

learning

opportunities

could occur.

Focus

For this presentation we will focus on how our physical space creates opportunities for serendipitous collaboration and points of contact that support a constructivist approach to learning.

Informing

Through integrated marketing we inform faculty of resources and opportunities for professional development available in the Center. We work diligently to ensure that faculty not only get the assistance they need but also experience a warm, welcoming environment.

http://www.mnsu.edu/cetl

Focal Point

The <u>Center for Excellence and Innovation</u> serves as an intellectual focal point for the faculty and staff of our campus and has served as a germination point for

cross-campus

collaboration and

innovation.

Faculty Resources

- **D2L and other drop in sessions**
- **Brown Bags, Tech Talks and Scholars at Work**
- **Mentors, Peer Faculty and SCOT consultations**
- **Faculty and Staff Learning Communities**
- **Collaborative spaces**
- **Web resources**

Collaborations and Innovations

- **Beginning to emerge**
- **Both intentional and chance interactions occur**
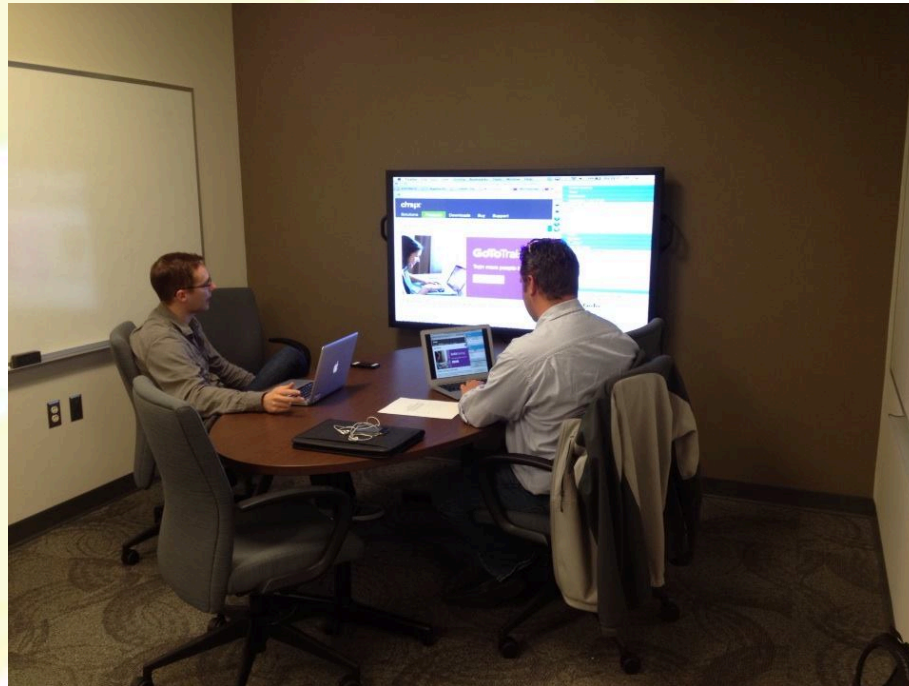
Current Collaboration

- **Professional Learning Communities**

- **Instructional Design Collaborative**

- **TelePresence-enhanced conference room**

- **"Bring your own device" Training Lab**

- **High-end Lecture Capture Studio**

- **Production Studio**

- **Streaming of presentations to remote sites**

- **Several multimedia development machines with professional eLearning software**

Future Ideas and Initiatives

- ◆ **iSALT (Scholarship of Assessment Learning and Teaching) Communities of Scholars**
- ◆ **Faculty release and/or stipends for collaborative course redesign with mentor support**

Funding Sources

- ◆ **Soliciting Colleges, Centers and departments for collaborative sponsoring of events and initiatives**

- ◆ **Responding to requests from faculty and others for collaboration**

- ◆ **Working for Foundation Support**

- ◆ **Soliciting Strategic Priority Initiative Funding**

- ◆ **Soliciting Grants**

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