The What, Why, and How of Transforming Traditional Classrooms into Collaborative Spaces

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• Small, 1800 students
• Private, faith based
• Traditional residential
• Undergraduate programs
• Located in Manchester, N.H
• Hosted 2016 Democratic and Republican Debates
• 5500 students
• Private Business School
• Unique blend of business, technology and liberal arts
• Waltham, MA – 9 miles from Boston
• Average class size 24
What is an Active Learning/Collaborative Space?
What is an active/collaborative learning space?

- Respond at PollEv.com/kimround
- Text KIMROUND to 37607 once to join, then text your message

No responses received yet. They will appear here...
Google: Active Learning Spaces
Why is everyone talking about it?

- Redesigned traditional classrooms

Diagram:

- Collaboration
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
Is your institution currently leveraging/planning to leverage active learning classrooms?

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- Yes, we are using them currently
- Planning 1-2 years from now
- Planning 3-4 years from now
- It's happening in the future - not sure when
- No plans to adopt

Poll Everywhere
Bentley’s Journey
Accounting Lab/Center for Marketing Technology (2000)

Classroom+
Breakout rooms/tables
2017

10 Collaborative Spaces
Technology @ Bentley
Technology @ Bentley
Saint Anselm’s Journey
Timeline:

- September 2013: Experimental Classroom
- January 2016: Two fully automated ALCs
- Fall 2016/Spring 2017: Measuring outcomes
Putting it all together
How to Get Started

- Open space
- Add collaborative stations
- Whiteboards
- Lighting
- Acoustics
- Enhancements
  - Computers and individual monitors on each station
  - Ability to interact podium with spaces
Funding

Saint Anselm’s Approach:

• A prototype/experimental classroom was funded for 12K, leveraging existing furniture.
• A grant was secured from the George I. Alden Trust for two active learning classrooms in the amount of 80K. The college absorbs an additional 3K.
• Prototype classroom is refit as a permanent active learning classroom, costing 38K (8K for furniture, 30K for technology)
• Additional active learning classroom is built, costing 45K (10K for furniture, 35K for technology)
Faculty Feedback or Concerns
Bentley Faculty Feedback

- Layout enables group/team work
- Pushing screens an advantage
- Increase participation
- Enables interaction
- Improvement over traditional classroom
- Training
- Sightlines
- Acoustics
- Lighting
- Whiteboard
Faculty agree on the following:

- Increases student excitement to learn and active participation
- Facilitates multiple types of learning activities
- Helps students develop confidence working in small groups
- Promotes discussion among students and developing connections
- Offers physically comfortable environment
- Assists with attendance
- Helps student develop confidence in analyzing and presenting
- Encourages students to generate new ideas
- Comfortable with using the technology
- Training is a key factor to being successful with the room
Bentley - Student Feedback

• Responded positive to layout
• Space was very suitable for group work
• Project podium on individual stations

• -ve factors – temperature, lighting, sightlines, acoustics
Saint Anselm - Student Perception

- Promotes engagement
- Enriches learning
- Flexible approaches
- Professor uses it well
- Promotes confidence
What are the teaching and learning benefits?

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Questions

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Thank You!
Remember to fill out evaluation form!