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# Proactively Supporting Active Learning for the 21st century learner: Collaborative and Team Based Student Spaces in the Learning Commons

Will, Carol

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## **Proactively Supporting Active Learning Spaces for the 21st Century Learner : Collaborative and Team Based Student Spaces in the Learning Commons**

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Learning Commons Conference | University of Calgary

**Robert C. Davis** | Manager, Academic Computing Computer Classrooms Office of Information Technologies

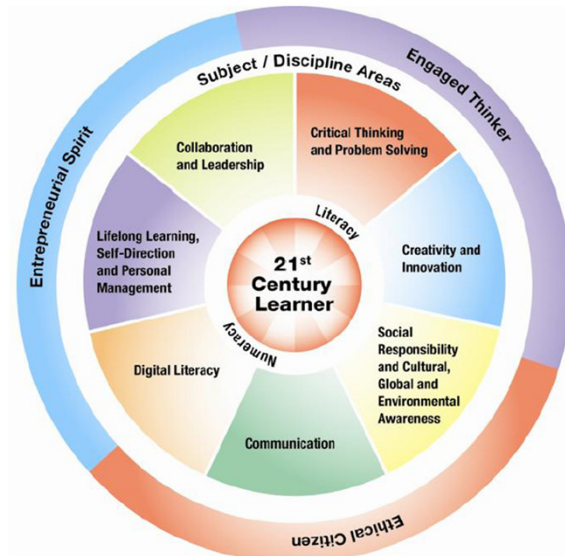
**Sarah Hutton** | Head, Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Services, W.E.B. Du Bois Library

**Carol Will** | Learning Commons Coordinator, W.E.B. Du Bois Library

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# Addressing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner

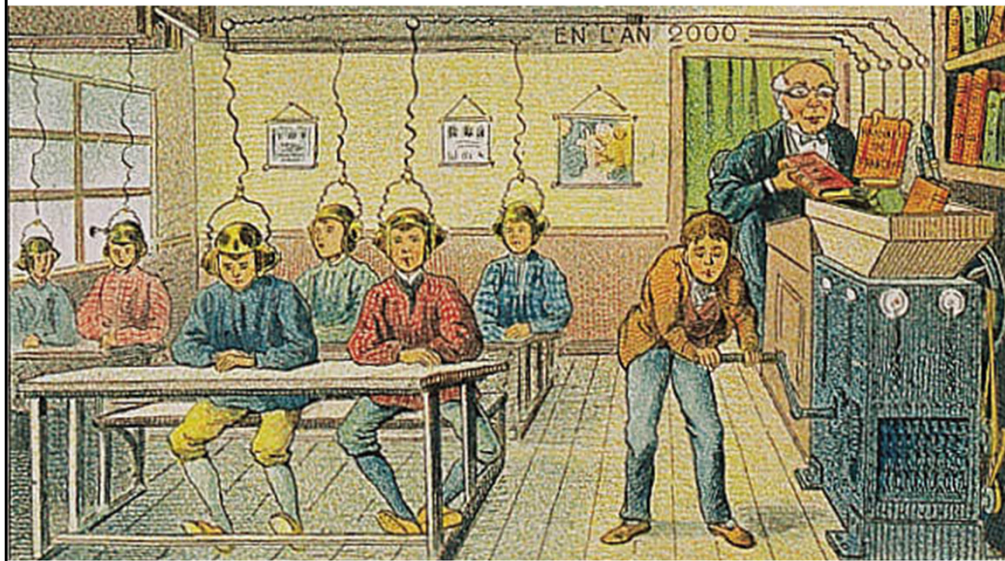


Government of Alberta, (2010). *Competencies of an Educated Albertan*, from Inspiring Action on Education, Discussion Paper.  
Retrieved 02/21/2012 from: <http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/media/2905/inspiringaction%20eng.pdf>

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**“Hey, Teacher, leave them kids alone!”**



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Technology isn't enough – students need to learn actively!

# New Goals, New Roles



Team-Based Learning (TBL) classroom University of Massachusetts Amherst (W.E.B. Du Bois Library; 1 of 2 pilot rooms on campus).

For more information on our TBL classroom model, contact Robert Davis:  
[rcdavis@oit.umass.edu](mailto:rcdavis@oit.umass.edu)



# The “Flipped” Classroom = Active Student Learning



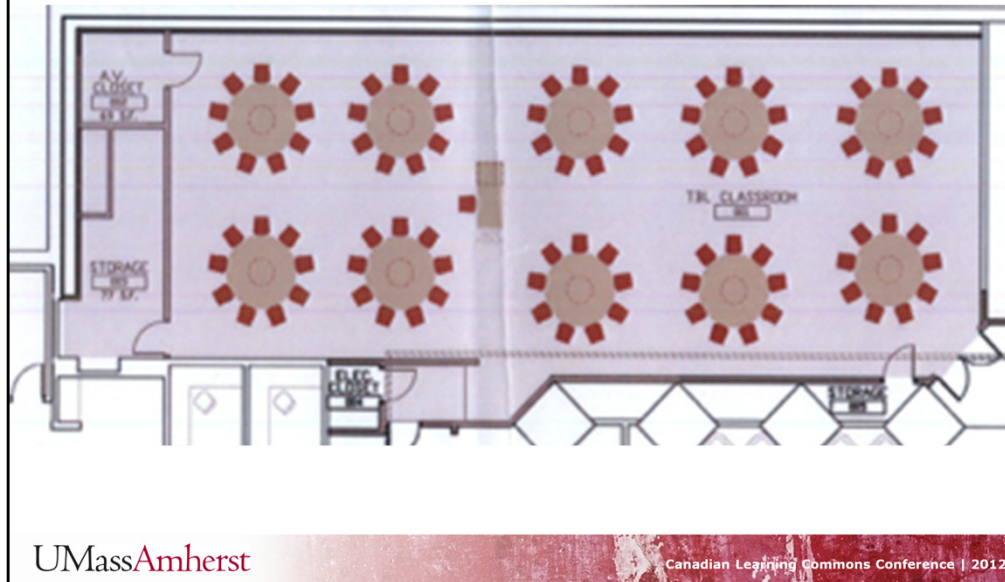
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More on the teaching fellowships run by our Center for Teaching and Faculty Development associated with the TBL classrooms – <http://www.umass.edu/ctfd/teaching/team-based.shtml>

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[rcdavis@oit.umass.edu](mailto:rcdavis@oit.umass.edu)

## Du Bois Team-Based Learning Classroom [90 Seats]



Layout based on MIT's Technology Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL) rooms but open to all disciplines across the curriculum.

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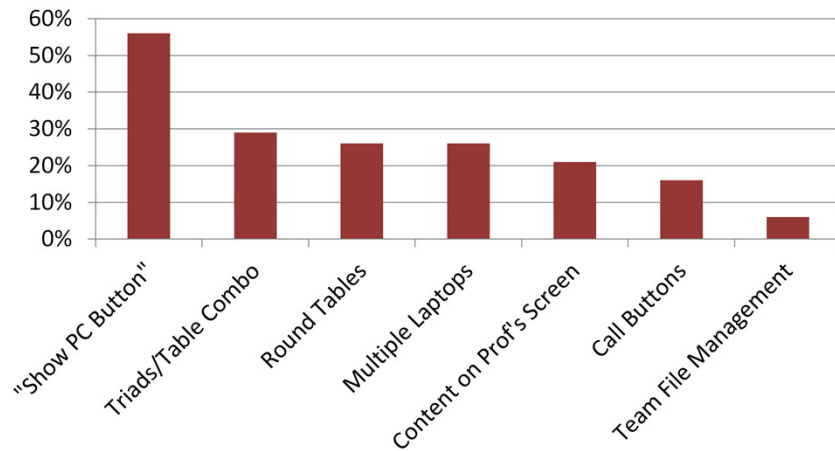
Students at each table have three laptops, a large screen monitor to project to, and white board with camera to display their work on screens around the room.

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# Student Open Response to New Classroom Model

Which elements of the new classroom do you prefer?



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Students participating in pilot team-based learning classes were asked the open-ended question: "Which elements of the new classroom do you prefer?"

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# The Ideal Teammate?

## Pre-course survey response:

- Smart
- Experienced

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At the beginning of the semester, students were asked what characteristics their 'ideal teammate' would have.

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## **Post-course survey response:**

- Willing to help
- Trustworthy, reliable, responsible
- Listens well, open-minded, cooperative  
– people skills
- Hardworking, prepared, comes to class
- Enthusiastic, eager

After the semester had run its course, the students had a few things to add!

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# What happens after class?



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The UMass Amherst Learning Commons (LC) is immediately adjacent to the new TBL; students literally walk out of the classroom and into the Learning Commons -- <http://www.library.umass.edu/learningcommons>

For more information on the support of student learning in our Learning Commons, contact Carol Will: [cwill@library.umass.edu](mailto:cwill@library.umass.edu)

## Supporting Students Engaging in NEW Ways of Learning



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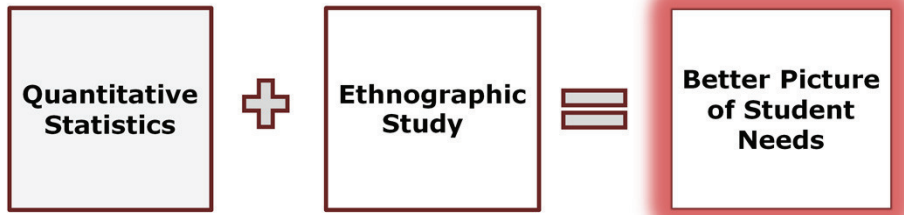
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Even outside the TBL classroom, new ways of working together takes shape amongst students organically. How can we help to foster growth?

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# Formula for Success



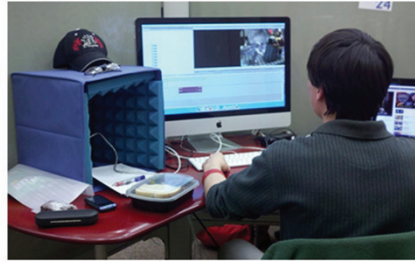
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Quantitative data isn't enough – in order to anticipate student needs and provide appropriate support, we need MORE. Pairing with the Anthropology Dept. to move in the direction of ethnographic research is our next step.

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# Determining What's Missing



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Finding out what student need before that need becomes a 'critical mass' is essential for staying ahead of the curve.

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# Emerging Student Needs



EDUCAUSE | LEARNING INITIATIVE

ACRL Association of College & Research Libraries  
A Division of the American Library Association



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Multimedia (video, audio – digital storytelling/narratives) projects are becoming more prominent in the curriculum; EDUCAUSE (ELI) reports this as a trend in 2007.

For more information on our plans to develop to a multimedia production center, please contact Sarah Hutton: [shutton@library.umass.edu](mailto:shutton@library.umass.edu)

# Trend of Change

- First Year Writing (ENG112), Unit III
- Public History, Oral Histories
- Anthropology, Digital Narratives



At UMass Amherst, investigation of changing local trends begins in 2008 (with SWAT team investigation). Multimedia projects/assignments are cropping up in several courses/programs outside of the typical 'film/media' or art courses.

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# Support for Faculty

- Instructional Media Lab
- Digital Humanities Lab
- Teaching Commons



On the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, there are several resources available for faculty looking to infuse their curriculum with multimedia projects. What about available support for our students??

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# Support for Students?



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The answer: NO. Though there may be 'pockets' of support on campus for students enrolled in specific programs (Communications, Art, etc), there is no multimedia support for the general student population.

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# Needs Assessment

- Faculty Testimonials
- Site Visits/Environmental Scan
- Survey
- Focus Groups



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More and more, faculty are telling us about courses they would like to implement, but they are concerned students need more training, resources. A special task force is investigating the construction of a multimedia center ('commons' concept) in the W.E.B. Du Bois Library.

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## Focus Groups: Successful Model



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Getting creative with data collection! Students fill out 'placemats' with their ideas on what should be in the multimedia space.

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## Multimedia Support at the Point of Need

*Digital Storytelling at Mercy College*





**Faculty**


*How do I encourage technology fluency and evaluate learning outcomes?*

**Digital Storytelling Project Marries Analysis, Technology, and Critical Reflection**

- Students use images, music, and narration to compose story
- Acquire basic multimedia skills
- Final project presented in freshman seminar course


**Librarian, Instructional Designer, and Tech Manager Provide Expertise**

- Library Learning Commons houses requisite technology
- Team consults students on project creation
- Online LibGuide resources:
  - Free software and tutorials
  - Royalty-free images and sound
  - Storyboarding guides
  - Project templates




**Students**

*How do I design and create a multimedia presentation for class?*



University Leadership Council, Redefining the Academic Library (2011)

Source: Education Advisory Board interviews and analysis.



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A model to which we aspire – faculty, students, instructional designers and librarians all working together to provide the BEST support.

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# Contact Information



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Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions!

<http://www.umass.edu/>