'Capitol'izing on Opportunities: Creating Collaborative Library Spaces through Partnerships with Campus Organizations

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‘CAPITOL‘IZING ON OPPORTUNITIES:
Creating Collaborative Library Spaces through Partnerships with Campus Organizations

NEW COMMITTEE, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

COLLABORATE

STATUS QUO

With the formation of a new Library Spaces Committee we had a choice to maintain the status quo of:

- Decision-making based on budget, timing, and previous choices.
- One-time projects.
- Or forging a new path of collaboration.

The collaborative path would include:

- Cross campus efforts to ensure student success and persistence by seeking partnerships.
- Phase planning to coordinate space changes needed across the library.

‘Capitol‘izing on these partnerships led to collaborative spaces.

CAMPUS IT

TRADITIONAL PARTNER
Existing contact within the library with a partner who is open to surveying students and ascertaining their interests and needs.

2018 PROJECT
Purchase new technologies for Learning Commons, plan future collaborative technology study spaces for space previously used for the Reference collection.

GOAL ALIGNMENT
Willing/able to fund collaborative projects emphasizing technology.

CAMPUS RECREATION

NEW PARTNER
No previous partnerships. 'Capitalize on their new hires to align goals. Sought partner based on assessment data.

2019 PROJECT
Purchased bike desks for student areas as alternative collaborative study spaces. Promoted campus recreation within the library.

GOAL ALIGNMENT
Willing/able to fund collaborative projects emphasizing wellness.

CHALLENGES

REACHING USERS
Assessment reached current library visitors/users but did not account for hard-to-reach populations or potential users.

ITERATIVE ASSESSMENT
Keeping assessment on track is difficult as coordination between multiple groups and individuals is tricky.

PHASE PLANNING
While we hope to build a phase plan, we must use these initiatives as pilot projects to identify areas for a phased approach.

SOLUTIONS

COMMUNICATE
Clarify goals, roles and expectations early on in the collaboration process.

IDENTIFY POINT PEOPLE
Champions of shared goals make projects easier!

TIME YOUR PROJECTS FOR STAKEHOLDERS
Work to understand your partner's operations & structures. Especially if funding is a key part of your project.

BENEFITS OF CROSS-CAMPUS

Collaborative Partnerships

- New furniture and technology with no library investment.
- Creates ambassadors for library goals and programs campus-wide.
- Raises the library's profile.
- Allows for the testing of assessment tools.
- Establishes guiding principles for future plans/implementations.

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