

exciting new spaces: Academic Hub, Outdoor Learning Pavilion, Pedagogy Center, Development Space

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Dear colleagues

As we get our spring semester underway, I want to share exciting developments on several unique FLC initiatives. Each of these projects is nicely symbolized by the new space that we are dedicating to it—and each represents our commitment to an important and inspirational FLC value. Please read the preview here, and then go take a look at these spaces to catch the "spark" of innovative possibility each holds.

I will share more messaging on each of these projects as they come to life—but here is the preview:

- **Academic Hub in Reed Library**

- Our new Academic Hub will have its "Grand Opening" next Thursday, January 27, with lead-up events all next week—more details to come!
- Come see the dramatic transformation of this wing of Reed Library, thanks to Title III funding. The Hub is defined by light-filled glass walls, contemporary furniture, and student artwork, creating an open, welcoming space for student work.
- The Academic Hub represents our commitment to student success and retention. Building on our hallmark Peer Education Center, the Hub organizes offices offering new forms of student support (such as our Success Coaches and Circle Back program) and inspiration (such as our Undergraduate Research Center and new Career & Life Design Center). There are many exciting programs coming to life in the Hub—and we'll entice you in to learn more about them during the Grand Opening.
- The space is beautiful, but the student support that happens inside that space is most important!
- Many thanks for Michelle Bonnano and her team for this meaningful student-centered work.

- **Outdoor Learning Pavilion, surrounded by an Indigenous Garden, near CSWS**

- We have secured a major donor gift that will allow us to build a new Outdoor Learning Pavilion--this will become a signature space on campus! This FLC-unique hands-on, "powered by place" learning space will be designed this spring and come to life over the next year.
- Go see the empty lot next to CSWS, notice its exhilarating views, and imagine a new Pavilion completing the circle of buildings at that end of campus.
- Inspired by the success of our tents, the Pavilion will serve as a large classroom where students can experience place-based learning: they might be inspired by mountain views as they draw or paint, might bring rock or plant samples into the pavilion for analysis, might engage in philosophical debate about the sublime...we'll imagine the possibilities together as we design the space.
- The Pavilion will be surrounded by an Indigenous Garden--this will be further defined by students, staff, and faculty.
- The Pavilion will also serve as a community gathering space, where people can come together for an outdoor concert, performance, exhibit, or celebration.
- Many thanks to Advancement and Physical Plant Services for their work to make this thrilling idea a reality.

- **Pedagogy Center (name TBD) in Jones Hall**

- This semester, we will create a new Center dedicated to transformative, inclusive, and indigenous pedagogies—let's build on our pedagogical innovation as a unique Fort Lewis strength.

- Take a look at the former “algebra alcove” space in Jones Hall. The space has been transformed by new paint (with new furniture to come); it will become a multi-use faculty and student learning space.
 - This Center will provide a space where our Mellon-funded pedagogy work can continue to grow and flourish.
 - Our conversations at the faculty “welcome back” meetings (this Thurs/Fri) will start to define the activities of this new Center.
- **Faculty and Staff Development Space (name TBD) in Berndt Hall**
 - This semester, we will also create a new “resource room”-type space that signals our commitment to staff and faculty development. This meeting room will collect materials about best practices in personnel development and the latest trends in higher education—and it will provide a space to highlight the amazing work we do on campus.
 - Note that near HR and the Provost’s office is a glassed-in room that is visible to people visiting the President’s office. We are in the process of transforming it into a staff and faculty meeting space that will also allow visitors to (quite literally) look in and see posters and displays of our innovative staff and faculty work.
 - We will collect input on what resources the space can provide and what inspirational projects we can show off there!

I hope you agree that we have many exciting projects ahead. These spaces signal our commitment to excellence and innovation on many fronts—from student success to outdoor learning to inclusive pedagogies to faculty and staff development!

I look forward to sharing more information on these projects in the coming days and weeks—stay tuned.

Best,
Cheryl