

exciting new Classroom Refresh program--and other upgrades such as Grub Hub!

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To: FLC-OFFICIAL-L <flc-official-l@listserv.fortlewis.edu>

Dear colleagues,

With students now on campus, I know that we are in full orientation mode! But, I want to make sure to thank you again for the great set of faculty retreat presentations and workshops we held earlier this week--many exciting plans are ahead. I will circulate notes from the retreat sessions; we'll be continuing to meet and work together in the areas of new salary/housing models, new curriculum planning, student support and success, and campus infrastructure--all with the aim of sparking student inspiration and engagement (and thus retention!). To whet the appetite for our continued progress in all areas, let me start with the infrastructure topic and report out on some campus building/space developments.

Over the summer, **we started an exciting new "Classroom Refresh" program**, in which we are working to upgrade classroom furniture, paint, and carpet, making sure that the classrooms feel welcoming and comfortable. These plans are a direct result of the conversations we held right before COVID (remember those surveys from what now seems to be a different era?!) and are working to address our needs to make our classrooms accessible and functional (and even exciting!!). Our plan is to **upgrade five classrooms a year**, assessing the improvements as we go. In addition, we are connecting these classroom upgrades to the technology funding we received from our impressive [USDA grant](#), so that they are HyFlex **technology equipped with better distance learning capabilities** in the form of touch screen monitors, ceiling mics, and cameras. As part of the upgrade, we are also making sure to **redesign a sub-set of classrooms for active learning** by incorporating movable furniture. The active learning classrooms will also feature new Think Hub technology, which allows for collaboration between students.

The first set of classrooms to be upgraded are:

- EBH 65: Active Learning Upgrade
- Jones 146: Active Learning upgrade
- Noble 110: Classroom upgrade
- Theatre 104: Classroom upgrade
- Theatre 105: Classroom upgrade
- note that we will be gathering feedback on these upgrades and then making plans for next year

Take a look at the EBH Active Learning redesign here:



Please join me in thanking the amazing Classroom Refresh Committee, which was able to get all of this planning and renovation in place during our COVID-interrupted spring/summer. Thank you to Kelsey Deckert, Jen Rider, Patrick Gaughan, Jeff Miller, Ayla Moore, and Tomasz Miaskiewicz, along with the Physical Plant and IT teams. This project is a great example of cross-unit collaboration and inventive use of grant funding.

As we look ahead to continued campus infrastructure improvements, I want to make sure to stress that **we are engaging in innovative upgrades to many other spaces** on campus. For example, our very meaningful and **well-loved [Grub Hub Food Pantry](#)**--a student-led organization that addresses food insecurity--has been moved to a Student Union space (where the Skycard office was) so that it can connect to other student organizations and food services. The Grub Hub will also house our grant-funded Single Stop program, which works to connect students to federal aid resources. A big thank you to Becky Clausen, Kate Suazo, Kendra Gallegos Reichle, and many others for spearheading these efforts. Again, a great example of innovative cross-campus collaboration and funding connections!

Here's the fantastic new Grub Hub space:



In addition, we are working on many other campus improvements that you've heard about. For example, Reed Library is undergoing construction for new Academic Hub elements, funded by our Title 3 grant. We are at the start of planning an Outdoor Learning Pavilion (inspired by our tents) and an Indigenous Garden. And, of course, who can ignore the Health Sciences Center construction at the heart of campus!? A quick look around campus this week features the energy and excitement generated by our new students-- and the new spaces they will be using!

Best,
Cheryl