

Teaching Innovation Learning Lab Unit Report

In fall, the highly anticipated Teaching Innovation Learning Lab (TILL) opened, on schedule, with more than 100 attendees present at the facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The TILL is the result of an extensive benchmarking project that included visits to similar innovation and technology-enhanced learning spaces at Xavier University (Ohio),

Steelcase Industries, Grand Valley State, University of Michigan, and Indiana University (Bloomington).

It was designed and launched as a collaboration between Delphi's Faculty Development, Instructional Design and Technology, and Blackboard and Learning Technology teams.



Marie Kendall Brown, Ph.D.
502.852.7416
marie.brown@louisville.edu
louisville.edu/till

ABOUT THIS UNIT

The TILL, which opened in August 2016, is a space for faculty-driven exploration and testing of innovative teaching methods that will drive success for the 21st century student at the University of Louisville. Located on the third floor of Ekstrom Library, the TILL was developed through ongoing feedback from a provost-appointed steering committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students. It includes a technology-rich active learning classroom, three collaborate rooms, a conference room, and a recording studio. This technology-enabled active learning space will prepare faculty to teach in the new Belknap Academic Classroom Building, which is scheduled to open in 2018.

Faculty members can utilize the TILL to assess the impact of teaching methods on student learning; they can also apply to teach in the TILL or meet with a TILL staff member for a one-on-one instructional consultation.

4

innovation-themed faculty learning communities offered over 16 sessions (40+ contact training hours)

18

applications received to teach in the TILL

24

departmental outreach meetings to introduce more than 300 faculty to the TILL

4,000+

visitors to the TILL in September and October alone



In its first year of operation, the TILL developed a number of policies, procedures, and internal and external communication materials, including a new website. The center also created an application process for teaching in the TILL.

In addition, the TILL exceeded its recruitment goal for its four new innovation-themed faculty learning communities, receiving 60 applications that represented all of UofL's degree-granting units.

By the end of December 2016, the TILL had received 18 applications from faculty members to teach in the space during spring 2017.

"I find the TILL offers new ways to increase student engagement. Instead of watching me work problems at the front of the room, students use the white boards and technology to collaboratively work out those same problems and learn from each other."

Jeff Hieb, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
J.B. Speed School of Engineering



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Trained 27 faculty and staff members to be faculty learning community facilitators in a two-day workshop led by two national experts
- ▶ Piloted eight courses in the TILL classroom led by five faculty members that reached nearly 300 students
- ▶ Hosted a site visit for 21 educational developers from the U.S. and around the world as part of the annual Professional and Organizational Development (POD) conference held in Louisville