Steelcase Education
Active Learning Center
Year One Grant Report
2017

stmary.libguides.com/steelcase

Submitted by
Danielle Dion,
Library Director
Steelcase Education Active Learning Center Grant Report Year One: 2017

stmary.libguides.com/steelcase

1. USM and De Paul Library history
2. De Paul Library transformation
3. Steelcase Education Active Learning Center
4. Publicity highlighting USM’s Steelcase Education Active Learning Center (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/marketing)
5. Lessons Learned
   - Special Challenge: We’re Too Popular!: ALC Room Reservation Management
   - Voices from the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center: Honors FYE Pilot Project Case Study
6. Measuring Impact:
   - Steelcase Education Active Learning Center’s Impact and Success at the University of Saint Mary
   - USM’s pre and post-occupancy survey results
   - Assessment Cycle Update: Year One
7. Research Dissemination: Presentations regarding the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/presentations)
8. Appendix A: Steelcase Education Active Learning Center USM Event Invitations (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/events)
10. Appendix C: Presentations highlighting the Steelcase Education ALC (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/presentations)
13. Appendix F: FY18 Emerging Technologies Librarian Job Description (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/emergingjd)

Nursing students studying for finals, December 2016
University of Saint Mary

The University of Saint Mary (USM), located in Leavenworth, Kansas, is a Catholic liberal arts institution charged by its founders, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, to “understand the past, to confront and shape the future, and to be called to justice…”. USM serves a community of over 1,000 students in face-to-face environments in Leavenworth and Overland Park, Kansas as well as distance students. The university’s mission is to provide a high quality higher education experience to lower socioeconomic status and first generation college students. The USM community believes in the dignity of each person's capacity to learn, to relate, and to better our diverse world and values community, respect, justice, and excellence.

De Paul Library

USM’s De Paul Library (see: stmary.edu/library) is in a period of rebirth with a strategic collaboration between the library, faculty, and student services departments to facilitate a new perception of the library on the campus. This vision, shared by USM librarians Danielle Dion, Ashley Creek, Lindsay Schettler, and the remaining library staff members, includes a passion for transitioning the De Paul Library into a vibrant, innovative, campus research and learning commons center. Library staff work to cultivate an image of being participatory, collaborative, inviting, flexible, and engaged members of the USM community. Librarians offer virtual and face-to-face instruction sessions in all academic disciplines and partner with departments to provide excellent resources for student and faculty needs. Online research tools highlight library collections and guides provide assistance for students for all university majors/minors and master’s programs (see: stmary.libguides.com/).
Construction of the De Paul Library building was completed in 1981 and it currently houses 75,000 volumes. A physical and virtual revitalization is in process at the library with new student and faculty learning models supported by an active learning classroom, active learning support materials for faculty and students including a board game collection and makerspace tools, an increased virtual presence, face-to-face and electronic instructional initiatives, faculty research consultations, grant funded digitization projects, a nationally recognized Abraham Lincoln historical special collection and a virtual reference program.

This learning center renovation is in the campus plan and architectural designs are being created and donors cultivated. The learning center stands to become one of the most relevant and heavily used spaces on campus with its future renovation as well as its renewed purpose on campus as USM’s cornerstone of knowledge (both physically and virtually). A fundraising capital campaign for the university is underway (see: www.campusfortomorrow.com/ ). The centerpiece of the Campus for Tomorrow Phase Two is transforming De Paul Library into a state-of-the-art Learning Center — including active learning innovation classrooms and the university's academic resource center.

Library foot traffic has steadily increased in the past year, due to the creation of open study spaces and the newly created Steelcase Education Active Learning Center, used daily for library information literacy classes, faculty discipline specific instruction, informal and formal collaboration, campus events, lectures, workshops, yoga, makerspace sessions, student club meetings, service learning activities, faculty/staff meetings, and luncheons.
Steelcase Education Active Learning Center

In spring of 2016, USM librarians, in collaboration with faculty and administrators, applied for the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center Grant (see: steelcase.com/discover/information/education/active-learning-center-grant/) to fund an active learning classroom in the library, an award worth $62,000. USM became one of thirteen recipients to win this prestigious and highly competitive (over 800 applications were submitted in 2016) grant, and to date we are the only library to have ever received this award. USM’s 2017 Year One Grant Report narrative, supporting documents, and the 2016 grant application packet is available (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase).

Room used by library staff 1981-2015

Makeshift library instruction classroom and event space 2015
Physical Therapy Doctoral Students work in the new Active Learning Center
Education majors practice teamwork to solve a Breakout.edu Puzzle box
Publicity regarding USM winning the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center 2016 Grant

- Aspire Holidays 2016 Alumni Magazine highlights the new Steelcase Education Active Learning Center grant receipt and new space (usmaspire.com/2017/01/20/holidays-2016/).

University of Saint Mary Selected for Prestigious Steelcase Education Active Learning Center Grant

Only 6 Higher Education Institutions Chosen as Recipients

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary De Paul Library has been selected to receive the installation of an active learning classroom worth $62,000 through the Active Learning Center (ALC) program—a grant initiative funded by Steelcase Education. For two years, this program empowers educators across the country to implement active learning strategies by leveraging classroom space.

“We are so honored to be recognized by The Active Learning Center grant,” said Danielle Dion, director of USM’s De Paul Library. “Over the past decade, libraries have changed into community spaces that aren’t stuffy and silent—rather vibrant learning centers, buzzing with energy and activity. USM faculty make it a priority to provide students an engaging environment, and this grant will create a state-of-the-art classroom centered on active hands-on learning.”

The Steelcase Education learning environment will easily morph into various classroom structures—including lecture, independent or team work, presentation, and discussion. Its flexibility will enable faculty to easily move through the space, assessing student understanding and guiding skill mastery and application of the subject being taught. Construction of the space will begin this summer and is scheduled to be complete by fall. Scott Rice Office Works, a family of interdependent companies offering highly specialized, fully-integrated planning, construction, and furnishings, will manage the project from start to finish.

“The University of Saint Mary was chosen for its commitment to utilizing progressive pedagogies and active learning strategies that truly impact student engagement,” said Craig Wilson, director of market development at Steelcase Education. “Faculty and students at USM will now be able to utilize a flexible learning space and explore the capabilities of an environment built specifically for improved engagement and collaboration.”
Scott Rice Office Works Press Release:
(see: scottrice.com/blog/university-saint-mary-selected-prestigious-steelcase-education-active-learning-center-grant/)
ACRL College & Research Libraries News Grant update: (see: crln.acrl.org/content/77/10/518.full)
Lessons Learned

*Major Insight*

As the library director facilitating the creation of a new campus space for teaching and learning, the major insight I had in this first year of the grant cycle was how many faculty, staff, and students were appreciative of being able to use a space on campus for all kinds of activities, a space that could be flexible for whatever they had in mind. The Steelcase Education Active Learning Center is in use with faculty, staff, and students sitting side by side, working together (when there is not an event scheduled). Faculty and staff have a sense of ownership of the space for their activities, and event reservations are already being scheduled all the way through May 2018.
**Surprising Impact**

One surprising impact was how the creation of USM’s Steelcase Education Active Learning Center facilitated the professional growth of USM Access Services Librarian Ashley Creek. Creek actively pursued the creation and maintenance of our Active Learning Resource Center (see: stmary.libguides.com/activelearning), cultivated a USM physical games check-out collection (see: stmary.libguides.com/activelearning/USMgames),
Creek also collaborated in the formation of the USM De Paul Library Makerspace (see: stmary.libguides.com/makerspace). Creek has become an incredible asset to the USM community on active learning techniques and tools for teaching and learning. Her work, spurred by the creation of the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center, has led to a technology resources check-out program where students, staff, and faculty can now incorporate 3D printing, large format printing, camcorders with video creation software and tools, an Ozobot 2.0 robot, Raspberry pi, and a Sphero SPRK+ Robot into their research, teaching, and learning (see: stmary.libcal.com/equipment.php?lid=87). She is also presenting regionally and nationally about makerspace creation and active
learning within academic libraries and higher education. Creek is the author of the De Paul Library’s newsletter Tips for the Stalled: Information for Captive Audiences (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/tips).

Creek’s passion, enthusiasm, and inherent skillset for these topics has led to a revamping of her job at USM’s De Paul Library. Her new job title is Emerging Technologies Librarian (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/emergingjd).
**Special Challenge: Active Learning Center Space Reservation Management**

The main special challenge we had with the implementation of USM’s Steelcase Education Active Learning Center was managing the activities that faculty, staff, and students schedule in the space. This room is not designated a classroom so that it will not be scheduled for regular classes, but will be used solely for special events, active learning class activities, “lunch and learns”, training sessions, lectures, student led activities, student life activities, etc. However, we never anticipated the popularity that this space would grow to have. We started reserving events in the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center through faculty, staff, and students emailing Danielle Dion to reserve the space. This initially worked fine until almost 3-4 events and classes were scheduled in a day. For the entire 2016-2017 academic year, the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center had events reserved 433 times. The previous year (academic year 2015-2016), the space that became the ALC was only reserved 30 times. This one year’s usage change is an increase of 1,212%.
Screenshots of Danielle Dion’s Outlook Calendar (method used to reserve the ALC during fall 2016)

Librarians began searching for an alternative to Microsoft Outlook to manage the room, and we switched to an online reservation system called LibCal (see: stmary.libcal.com/equipment_rooms.php) in March 2017.

Library Homepage – online reservation system located here (stmary.edu/Library)
Available: June 26th – July 2nd 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Main Floor Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Eastern Library Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>South Library Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Stadium Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Steelcase Education Active Learning Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online reservation system (stmary.libcal.com/equipment_rooms.php)
We now have the ability to run statistics on how many people reserve the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center and how many times it has been reserved.

**Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unique Users</th>
<th>Total Bookings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We had 181 reserved events in Steelcase Education Active Learning Center from March 1, 2017-June 27, 2017 that were captured in our Space LibCal reservation system. Prior to March 1, 2017 there were 252 events from August 2016 for a total of 433 events hosted in USM’s ALC during the first year of the grant cycle. This is a dramatic increase of space usage from last academic 2015-2016 year which only had 33 events in the space – a space usage increase of 1,272%.

*Voices from the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center: Honors FYE Pilot Project Case Study*

USM librarians, faculty, and staff facilitate a student learner centered environment on campus through the creation of the Steelcase Active Learning Center. This new center encourages faculty and staff to utilize active learning curriculum strategies that increase student and social learning, collaboration, critical thinking skills, knowledge creation, creativity, and experimentation. The creation and use of the ALC has encouraged collaboration and innovation between faculty and staff that did not exist prior to this initiative as well as fostered active learning pedagogy with faculty and staff.
All USM first year students (FYE) participate in a 15 hour service learning project, generally aligned with either or both the mission of the university and/or the major interests of the individual student. A pilot project was introduced in spring 2017 utilizing the library’s new Steelcase Education Active Learning Center space that encouraged first year students to participate in service learning opportunities on a single service organization or theme, as well as increasing student technological literacy early in the college career. Librarians collaborated with the Honors FYE faculty on a three-stage progressive experience, where librarians worked with Honors FYE students to explore major technology concepts, propose and create digital projects to benefit the library and makerspace technologies, and document and reflect on their projects and the service learning experience through a WordPress portfolio website. The majority of this three hour/week class time for the FYE Honors students for spring 2017 was spent utilizing the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center.

First, librarians created a four part speaker series called *Bites & Terabytes: Exploring Technological Frontiers* advertised to the larger community but mandatory for Honors FYE students. This speaker series was held in the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center. Sessions focused on machine logic and game design, professional social media, cybersecurity, and makerspaces. An in-class assignment to create a WordPress portfolio site provided space for reflection and an introduction to the software used later in the semester.
An incredible on-campus learning series bringing the latest and greatest tech to Saint Mary. Whether you can attend all four expert presentations or just one, join us for discovery, innovation, and creation.

Refreshments and dessert provided at every session.

Monday, Jan. 23
11 a.m. | De Paul Library
*Bring a laptop!

Frog Safety: Intro Workshop on Game Design & Machine Logic
Ashley Creek, USM Access and Learning Services Librarian

Monday, Jan. 30
11 a.m. | De Paul Library

Social Media & Professional Communications
John Shultz, Vice President Marketing and Admissions

Monday, Feb. 6
11 a.m. | De Paul Library

"What's Your Password" - Cybersecurity in Today's World
Sunny Sun, Assistant Professor of CIS

Monday, Feb. 13
11 a.m. | De Paul Library

Make It at the Library
Nick Ward-Bopp, JoCo Public Library MakerSpace Facilitator
Following the speaker series, librarians met with Honors FYE students to develop ideas for technology-based service learning projects to benefit the library. Librarians offered feedback, ideas, and available equipment to create marketing, educational, or functional resources the library could use to engage with students.
A few weeks later, students had to present their project-in-progress to a review team of librarians and the campus service learning coordinator before delivering the tangible results of their projects before an end-of-semester showcase. Both of these events prompted reflective journal assignments published to each student’s portfolio website. Concurrent with the service learning experience, librarians worked with the Honors FYE faculty to embed scaffolded technology assignments throughout the curriculum, culminating in a digital exhibit project utilizing the WordPress platform and digitized items from the university’s Special Collections. The students developed strong technology management and data curation skills through the digital exhibit project (http://stmary.libguides.com/honorsfye/digitalexhibitproject). Their digital exhibit projects would be displayed to the entire campus community at the end of the semester during an open house format in the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center space.
For information regarding the whole program and the various projects please see: http://stmary.libguides.com/honorsfye. Below are the final digital exhibit projects created by the FYE Honors Students (http://stmary.libguides.com/honorsfye/finalprojects).

- **Class Conflicts and Inequalities**
  - https://classconflicts.wordpress.com/

- **The Spread of News**
  - https://fye2017.wordpress.com/

- **Abraham Lincoln's Historical Campaign**
  - https://timelesscommunication.wordpress.com/

- **Lincoln's Sorrow: The Early Depression, Family Life, Death of Their Son, and Grief of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln**
  - https://lincolnssorrow.wordpress.com/

- **History of Presidential Assassinations**
  - https://historyofpresidentialassassinations.wordpress.com/
Join Us for the Capstone Digital Exhibit!

Come enjoy a showcase of collaborative work by our FYE honors students! The group applied 21st Century curation skills to digitized artifacts in the University of Saint Mary De Paul Library Lincoln Collection. An exhibit of service learning projects will also be on display.

**Wednesday, May 3**
**11 a.m. - Noon | De Paul Library**

Lunch and dessert will be served.

All students, faculty, and staff are WELCOME!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 2

to Scott O’Leary, honors director, at scottoleary@stmary.edu
Group presenting their digital exhibit to USM students.
First Year Honors Service Learning students showcasing the work they did in the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center
Measuring Impact

*Steelcase Education Active Learning Center’s Impact and Success at the University of Saint Mary*

Librarians collaborate with USM instructors to create active learning initiatives in the ALC. Since the ALC is not scheduled as a normal classroom, the entire university community utilizes the space for individual presentations, events, or class sessions by appointment. USM’s Active Learning Center stands as a vibrant, dynamic example of active learning in higher education.

With the receipt of the Steelcase Education Active Learning grant, a comprehensive active learning professional development program began in the form of the newly created USM Center for Excellence inSpires Teaching and Learning, a collaboration of interested faculty members and the Library Director, led by Dr. Gwen Landever, Academic Dean. In August 2016, an afternoon Active Learning workshop was held including all USM faculty and interested staff. This Active Learning workshop was led by Steelcase Education facilitators and coordinated by the library. USM Faculty and staff are currently sharing with others during lunch and learns demonstrating lessons learned, skillsets enhanced, and tips drawn from their pedagogical experiences in the ALC. USM Faculty and staff are actively engaged with navigating today’s pedagogical paradigm shift from sage-on-the-stage to a guide-on-the-side model.

An Active Learning Resource Page is available for faculty and staff to incorporate into their teaching methods: [stmary.libguides.com/activelearning](http://stmary.libguides.com/activelearning). This guide highlights library materials, useful tips, strategies, and pedagogy for faculty and staff, providing instruction on active learning, gamification, makerspaces, and innovative uses of technology in higher education. A $1,000 print and electronic Active Learning Resource Collection, a subset of the library’s teaching and learning resources, is available for faculty and staff to explore independently.

Librarians partner with faculty to create an active learning community of practice focused on creating curriculum that increase student and social learning. The library provides resources, spaces, and support for instructor to student engagement, peer to peer learning opportunities, metaliteracy, and multiple teaching modes designed to meet visual, auditory, and kinesthetic student learning styles.
From August 2016 through June 27, 2017, the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center space was home to 433 classes, events, workshops, conference sessions and used by every USM academic department as well as Campus Counseling, Athletics, Student Life, Student Success, Tech Services, Career Services, Campus Ministry, Admissions, Faculty Senate, Institutional Advancement, and the Financial Aid Office. By centering on the needs of the USM community, De Paul Library Staff developed a new vision of the library as center of the campus learning community. The active learning academic library resources toolkit can be easily implemented to enable others to enhance the learning experiences of students, faculty, and staff across the community (see: http://stmary.libguides.com/2017acrlexcellence/toolkit).

The creation and use of the ALC has encouraged collaboration and innovation between faculty and staff that did not exist prior to this initiative as well as fostered active learning pedagogy with faculty and staff. The active learning initiative’s impact on the USM campus community has been transformational and is aligns perfectly with the university’s values of community and excellence (see: About-us/USM-At-A-Glance.aspx).

**USM Steelcase Education Active Learning Assessment Plan Update: Year One**

USM faculty and staff have made excellent progress on the assessment cycle plan outlined in the grant application. The newly formed Center for Excellence in Spires Teaching and Learning (CESTL) developed monthly programming for faculty and staff related to active learning strategies and techniques, an Active Learning in Makerspaces workshop was conducted for internal and external educators, dozens of events were hosted in the ACL for internal and external constituents, and all events held in the ALC were documented and images of each event were cataloged by library staff and/or the USM Marketing Department. ALC event publicity was also documented. For this next year, we plan to conduct personal interviews and focus groups of student, faculty, and staff usage of the space to glean valuable insights for future development of this space as well as future library spaces. We plan to also connect the data from this second year of personal interviews and focus groups to USM learning outcomes.
Doctorate in Physical Therapy students using the small whiteboards
USM’s Steelcase Education Active Learning Center grant application materials were designated as excellent examples of a grant application and our grant application materials have been shared nationally with 2017 potential grant applicants.

USM’s 2016 Steelcase Education Active Learning Center Grant Application Site

Curating an Active Learning Ecosystem: A Toolkit (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase)
Also, our entire community’s usage of the space generated such a positive campus impact and outcome that Steelcase Education sent a video team in December to capture and share our story:

USM’s Steelcase Education Active Learning Center’s video https://youtu.be/ehtjYjRd2As
USM’s Steelcase Post-Occupancy Measurement Results

In May 2017 USM faculty, staff, and students participated in two measurement instruments (pre-install and post-install surveys) to gauge their potential changes in behavior, student success and engagement, teaching, and learning due to the new Steelcase Education Active Learning Center space. “Steelcase defines student success as acquiring and exhibiting the knowledge, skills, and personal development needed to achieve multiple personal and educational goals (Steelcase Active Learning Classroom Learning Environment Evaluation University of Saint Mary, June 2017, p. 4). The pre-install and post-install survey links and instructions were emailed to all faculty and staff who have utilized the ALC space from August 2016-May 2017. Faculty and staff users of the ALC were asked to forward the student pre-install and post-install survey instruments to students who were in their fall 2016 and spring 2017 classes in order to obtain their feedback. The pre-install and post-install survey instruments are designed to measure instructor’s perspectives on the furniture and tools within the classroom, the relationship between themselves and the student, the instructor’s mindset, and student and instructor behaviors in the classroom (Steelcase Active Learning Classroom Learning Environment Evaluation University of Saint Mary, June 2017). The pre-install and post-install student survey measurement tools are designed to capture student behaviors around desired skills (critical thinking activities, creative activities, collaborative learning, and communication and participation), the student mindset and community sense of belonging, and how the student interacts with the physical space. There were 9 instructors who took the survey instruments and 2 students. The survey response rate is low, and we plan to offer incentives for faculty, staff, and students for the second year of the reporting cycle measurements.

Instructors (faculty and staff) noted the following about how the post-install Steelcase Education Active Learning Center’s classroom impacts students’ learning experiences and impacts the instructors’ teaching strategies:
• **Classrooms orientated around groups immediately encourage students to talk to each other more**
• **Positive impact. They are using all available tools to enhance their discussion**
• **I can get to them and help them apply the learning concept.**
• **Can utilize different strategies when appropriate**
• **Teaching has become a mobile and adaptable experience. It has forced me to become more interactive with the students and bring the content to life.**

**Instructor Survey Highlights**

• **There was a 78% in how the new classroom furniture supports desired teaching/learning in the classroom.**
• **Instructors reported a 78% increase in the variety of tools the students now have to support their learning and a 69% increase in the use of classroom tools overall.**
• **“They are using all available tools to enhance their discussion”**
• **Instructors said they are able to connect with their students 48% more**
• **77.7% more instructors strongly agree that they have established strong relationships with their students.**
• **Instructors noted the following student behavior changes:**
  o 34.5% increase in collaboration
  o 29.5% in the co-creating of material
In March 2017, academic librarians, USM faculty and staff, public librarians, and library media specialists spent a day in the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center participating in an Active Learning through Makerspaces workshop led by Dr. Anna Catterson, Education Technologist from Emporia State University.
Preparing for the Active Learning through Makerspaces workshop hosted by USM in March 2017
First Year Experience Students Competing in an Online Quiz Competition

Research Dissemination

By centering on the needs of the USM community, De Paul Library Staff developed a new vision of the library as center of the campus learning community. The active learning academic library resources toolkit can be easily implemented to enable others to enhance the learning experiences of students, faculty, and staff across the community (see: http://stmary.libguides.com/2017acrlexcellence/toolkit).
A Center for Excellence in Spires Teaching and Learning (CESTL) has now been formed to facilitate new innovation ideas and professional development opportunities for USM community. CESTL planning and faculty and staff professional development events take place in the ALC (see: stmary.libguides.com/cestl)
Presentations regarding the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center (see: stmary.libguides.com/steelcase/presentations)

- Creek, Ashley, Dion, Danielle, and Schettler, Lindsay. (2016). Winning the Steelcase Active Learning Center Grant: Strategies for Successful Grant Writing. Brick & Click Academic Libraries Symposium. Maryville, Missouri.


Danielle Dion has a conference proposal pending acceptance for the 2017 EDUCAUSE conference hosted in Philadelphia, PA titled Winning the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center Grant: Implementing an Active Learning Campus Initiative for Teaching and Learning.
Respectively submitted by the University of Saint Mary’s De Paul Library Staff
And our USM mascot Spiro!