What Works: Learning Spaces

Spaces that serve student learning:

- reflect institutional goals for student learning.
- facilitate a wide range of student learning styles and pedagogical approaches.
- foster learning communities.

Spaces that assist in building robust interdisciplinary programs:

- are living laboratories in which to explore issues relating to environmental concerns.
- enable interdisciplinary collaborations in learning and research.

Spaces that serve to strengthen student learning:

- are flexible enough to support and adapt to multiple pedagogies and learning styles.
- foster sustainable learning communities.
- are fully mediated and interactive.
- have ubiquitous opportunities for writing, for collaborating, for connecting to and through technologies.
- send a message about the efficacy of active, discovery-based learning, and about the relationship of the quality of space and the quality of learning.

Spaces that accommodate the advantageous use of digital resources:

- are designed to support different levels of technological sophistication.
- support the anywhere, anytime use of these resources.
- become themselves laboratories for learning.
- anticipate the future.

Spaces that ensure the success of under-represented groups in STEM learning communities:

- provide hospitable, welcoming environments for individual learners and for collaborating groups of learners.
- showcase the relevance and human nature of the scientific and technological enterprise.

Spaces that infuse a global dimension into the undergraduate STEM learning environment:

- accommodate regular (electronic) communication with colleagues around the world, enriching learning and enhancing research.

Spaces that link insights about how people learn into curricular reform:

- allow for active, collaboration, inquiry-based learning (anything else is malpractice!).
- illustrate the inter-relationship between curriculum, spaces, and goals for student learning.

Spaces that attract and serve all students:

- are open and welcoming at all times to students.
- enable flexible scheduling and use by students with different learning styles.
- are themselves laboratories for learning.
- serve the entire campus community. ■

PKAL LEARNING SPACES COLLABORATORY