Extending the Community of Learners at a Commuter College: City Tech’s OpenLab

CUNY CUE Conference
LaGuardia Community College
May 2, 2014
Call for Living Lab Associate Fellows

The Living Lab is seeking full-time and part-time faculty to join the General Education Seminar Associate Fellows Program in Spring 2016. Click here for more information.
the OpenLab is part of “A Living Laboratory” - a five-year $3.1M grant-funded project awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (Title V) to revitalize general education at City Tech
our team

living lab project director: Jonas Reitz
living lab project manager: Charlie Edwards
OpenLab co-directors: Jody Rosen & Jenna Spevack
OpenLab institutionalization lead: Maura Smale
OpenLab outreach lead: Libby Clarke
instructional technology fellow: Bree Zuckerman
community facilitators: Scott Henkle, Andy McKinney, Kamili Posey
developers: Boone Gorges, early-adopter
system administrator: André Pitanga
student bloggers: Shawn Brumell, Amber Vinson
goals for the OpenLab

- make the curriculum visible to students
- encourage connections across the college
- empower students to take ownership of their work
- offer a virtual space for collaboration & learning for the entire City Tech community
why “Open”? unlike closed online college systems, the OpenLab allows members across the college to communicate with one another and the world outside City Tech
why “Lab”?

like a lab, it provides a space where faculty and students can work together, experiment, and innovate
who’s using the OpenLab?

_ Jonas Reitz, for courses
_ Karen Goodlad, for a project
_ Anna Matthews, for a student club
_ Jenna Spevack, for eportfolios
May I be of Service?
An Interdisciplinary FYLC
Using Projects on the OpenLab

Karen Goodlad, HMGT
New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Learning Community Taught with
John Akana, HMGT * Laura Westengard, ENG
High Impact Educational Practice: First Year Learning Community Academic Service Learning Project
The Plan

- Place-based Learning
- OpenLab
- Academic Service Learning Assignment
- Gen Ed Learning Outcomes
Communicate in diverse settings & groups, using written, oral and visual means.

Derive meaning from experience, as well as gather information from observation.

Gather, Interpret, evaluate, and apply information discerningly from a variety of sources.
Use the Brooklyn Waterfront and Brooklyn as a whole as our Extended Campus

Place-based Learning

The Plan
OpenLab

“The Plan

“Open” was vital to ensuring we could reach our audience, and make learning transparent.
Academic Service Learning Assignment:
Creation of an online tool for new students, faculty & staff

The Plan
New Students, Faculty, Staff

Experiential Learning

Writing Profiles

Industry Exploration

Students in Action
New Students, Faculty, Staff

Students in Action

#TheGuide

May we be of service?
Students in Action

 writing intensive courses
 critical thinking
 intellectual engagement
 potential for growth
Experiential Learning

Students in Action

embracing community
decision making
intellectual engagement
reflection
Industry Exploration

networking
professional development
intellectual engagement
building awareness

Students in Action
As I was completing my paper on profiling the Welcome Center I considered how useful this information would be for first year students. Within the essay I strongly emphasized the topic of directions and how the many employees there stressed that it was the most commonly asked question. As I was writing I analyzed my own thoughts specifically my first experiences walking through the doors of City Tech even before I was officially a freshman. I noticed that the first words that came out of my mouth was asking for directions.
Student Testimonial

Professor Goodlad discusses *The New York Times* Travel section every week and allows students to share their opinions on various travelling topics. She also arranged three field trips for students to explore outside instead of sitting in a typical classroom. …

*After this project, I have become more interested in the tourism industry and my research skills are improving tremendously in my other classes.*
I never realized how much leisure eateries and restaurants there were right under my nose. Research about the Brooklyn Waterfront helped me to learn and explore the Brooklyn Waterfront more. **This project helped me to venture out and explore the fast growing Brooklyn Waterfront.** I enjoyed learning and doing the project, grouping together all of these beautiful restaurants and fun eateries to become one big project.
Student Testimonial

The Waterfront was largely unknown to me, almost mysterious. I have always wanted to explore it. Thanks to the guidance provided by Prof. Goodlad the assignment turned out to be quite enjoyable. In my “36 Hours” I focused on ecotourism, responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well being of the local people. I was surprised to discover how many organic food facilities are located in Brooklyn, they also provide fresh local produce.
OpenLab for student clubs

- SADHA – Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association, student club of the NYCCT Dental Hygiene program
- OpenLab site for all students-members, faculty, and alumni
- Discussion of club activities and events, both on and off campus
  - Announcements
  - Reports of volunteering events
  - Sharing of students’ achievements
  - RSS feed from the leading professional journals (*Journal of Dental Hygiene*)

A.Matthews NYCCT
Student ADHA

'To love what you do and feel that it matters – how could anything be more fun?' – Katharine Graham

May 2014 Student News!

Posted on May 14, 2014 by amatthews

A.Matthews NYCCT

How Do Diet and Body Mass Index Impact Dental Caries in...
OpenLab for student projects

SADHA Team site for ongoing discussion for club officers, advisors and members involved in planning of the club’s activities and events

SADHA Team 2015
The Busy Bees of SADHA Club

i am going to SUCCEED
We can have more than we’ve got, because we can become more than we are. Jim Rohn

A. Matthews NYCCT
thank you!

more questions? please get in touch!
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