

Amigos Fellowship and Opportunity Award Program Award Final Report

BYOD and Collaborate: a Low-Cost/High Tech Student Collaboration Solution Mabee Library MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU)

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Summary of Project Activities

Mabee Library used grant funding provided by Amigos to implement a collaboration station to better support student academic success and collaborative learning. This project was developed after observing similar collaboration stations in other academic library settings, and learning that these observed collaboration stations were purchased from commercial vendors at a cost of \$15,000 or more. It was our belief that a similarly functional system could be built at far less expense. We partnered with two primary vendors (Premier Studios and Office Essentials) which were commonly used by the university to acquire the bulk of the necessary technology and furniture.

Prior to the end of the Fall 2014 term, a fully-functional collaboration station was installed in the Mabee Library, on the library's first floor, where collaborative study is permitted, and indeed encouraged, and where the collaboration station would be more prominent and visible. Additionally, we retrofit two of our study rooms so they could be used as auxiliary collaborative study spaces – essentially creating two more collaboration stations. (See attached photos.)

We promoted this new service among university faculty, staff, and students, and tracked its usage via our Microsoft 365 calendaring system reserve process. Use of the collaboration stations has been good – with the collaboration station on the library's main floor being particularly well received. Remarkably, the collaboration stations have not experienced any technical problems or downtime though the period of 2014 through early 2019. The Mabee Library's computer services librarian, Lon Dagley, developed a quick instruction guide for the primary collaboration station (attached), and monitored their use to provide orientations and assist with questions.

Financial Statement

List the expenditures for your Amigos Fellowship by type of expense and complete the institutional certification below.

Expenditures

Supplies	0
Services	0
Telephone	0
Travel	0
Fees	0
Other (Describe)	\$2,504.00 (Technology – Premier Studios) \$3,220.56 (Furniture – Office Essentials) \$414.44 (Equipment –AV Design)

Total Funds Awarded **\$6,139.00**

I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the data above is correct, and all outlays of funds were made in accordance with the terms of the Amigos Fellowship award.



Signature of Recipient's Authorizing Institutional Representative

1-10-19
Date

Name: Bruce Flanders Telephone: 913-971-3568

Address: Mabee Library, MidAmerica Nazarene University, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062

Details of technology and furniture expenditures;

Premier Studios (technology)

Sharp 50" LED Flat Screen TV Model LC-50LB150U	742.50
Crestron Air Media	1289.25
HDMI Cable	17.55
Cat 5 network cable	<u>29.70</u>
Sub-Total	2079.00
Installation	380.00
Shipping	<u>45.00</u>
Total	2504.00 (2504.00 from Amigos grant)

Office Essentials (furniture)

Table (custom order, laminate)	696.95
Global table round leg assembly	452.62
Global single table beam	238.50
Global casters	13.25
Global corded power trough	728.75
Global USB and patch cord	29.15
Global cable snake	62.54
Global power/data cable basket	42.40
Global Sonic Chairs, with arms, casters, fabric (5)	<u>887.50</u>
Product total	3220.56
Freight	0
Installation	<u>0</u>
Total	3220.56 (3220.56 from Amigos grant)

AV Design (equipment)

Flat screen fixed wall mount	79.00
HDMI/VGA wall plates	90.00
HDMI cables 8ft	36.00
VGA cables 8ft	30.00
Installation	<u>300.00</u>
Total	535.00 (414.44 from Amigos grant)

Statement Evaluating Success of Project

The project goals were to increase the availability of academically-integrated solutions for group study and collaborative work by November 2014, increase the reputation of the MNU Mabee Library faculty as thought leaders in academic implementations of collaboration stations, increase the use of collaborative technology, increase the preparedness of students for collaborative scholarship, and increase the application of collaboration stations in Amigos member libraries.

Specific grant achievements are as follows:

Increase availability of academically-integrated solutions for group study and collaborative work, to be achieved by November 2014: it was originally hoped that two collaboration stations could be acquired, but with a redesign of the project, three collaboration stations were installed. The primary collaboration station, installed on the first floor of the library, consumed the majority of available grant funds. Remaining funds from the grant (\$414.44) were used to install two existing flat screen TVs on the walls of two of the library's study rooms, along with HDMI and VGA cables, allowing students, faculty, and staff to use those two study rooms as additional collaboration stations.

The technology, furniture, and equipment made possible by the Amigos Fellowship and Opportunity Award was acquired by October 2014, and the three collaboration stations were in place and functional by the stated deadline of November 2014.

The primary collaboration station acquired with the Amigos grant became the centerpiece of the project, since it featured wireless access to the large display. The Crestron Air Media unit has been amazingly effective in streamlining connectivity – and allows one or up to four devices (phone, tablet, Apple or PC laptop) to be displayed simultaneously. The wireless connectivity eliminates the typical, massive bundle of connection cables (Apple, Android, HDMI, VGA) associated with most commercial collaboration station setups. The two study room collaboration stations represented a wired connectivity compromise, allowing users with HDMI or VGA ports to connect via cables to the wall-mounted display in the study rooms.

Increase the reputation of the MNU Mabee Library faculty as thought leaders in academic implementations of collaboration stations: upon the receipt of grant funds from Amigos Library Services, the Library Director shared news of the successful grant application with the University Cabinet and administrators. The following comments were received:

- “Congratulations and thank you and all involved for your leadership. This is another opportunity to take a step forward in our services and support for students and the goals we strive to achieve for them. Will look forward to the campus and public notice of this grant and the opportunity it represents. Thanks for your great leadership.” (University President)
- “Congratulations on this great news! I appreciate your efforts – and Whitney’s [grant writing consultant] in pursuing these opportunities. Well done!! Thanks for your leadership and efforts to make the library a destination on our campus.” (Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs)
- “Congratulations Bruce! Thanks for your continued leadership in this area!” (University Vice President, Finances)
- “I truly appreciate you and your efforts. Congratulations on the new grant award. Thanks for your tremendous leadership and dedication to MNU!” (University Vice President, University Advancement)

Increase the use of collaborative technology: this certainly occurred with the advent of the new collaboration station. Usage statistics (maintained for the primary collaboration station on the library’s first floor), show a total of 110 scheduled uses during the period of November 2014 through October 2017. (November 2014 through October 2015 – 31 uses, November 2015 through October 2016 – 51 uses, and November 2016 through October 2017 – 28 uses.) As might be assumed, there are numerous unscheduled uses of the collaboration station, so these numbers represent only a fraction of total usage. We have noticed, too, that university faculty and staff also use the collaboration station for interdisciplinary discussions and departmental meetings. Usage statistics for the secondary collaboration stations in two of the library’s study rooms are not available, but through casual observation are believed to be at least equivalent to use of the primary collaboration station.

Increase the preparedness of students for collaborative scholarship: a survey of MNU students in February 2015 revealed that 13 percent of them delivered collaborative presentations once a month, and 36 percent of them delivered collaborative presentations at least once during a school term, and that 42 percent were moderately comfortable doing so, while 27 percent were uncomfortable with this. We intend to administer the survey again in the coming year to determine if those numbers have improved, both in terms of the percentage of students participating in collaborative presentations, and

the comfort level of the collaborative work participants. It would not be surprising to see at least a modest improvement in these numbers, based on the implementation of the collaboration stations made possible by the Amigos fellowship grant.

Increase the application of collaboration stations in Amigos member libraries: Lauren Hays, Mabee Library's Instructional and Research Librarian, included a post about the collaboration station project, funded by Amigos, on the LITA blog in September 2014. This has been the only effort to date to promote this project outside of the MNU community.

Attachment – Collaboration Station Instructions
(posted in Plexiglas display on the station’s table)

Using the Collaboration Station

The collaboration station will connect a Mac or a PC to the large monitor without cables.

- If the TV is not turned on, the power switch is on the right side or the rear of the TV.
- Once the TV displays the Library logo, it is ready to connect.

<screen shot showing web address (IP address) and access code>

- Open a web browser on your laptop.
- Enter the web address or the IP address in the address line of your web browser.
- Once you have the Air Media webpage loaded, download the correct app for your computer.

<screen shot showing the separate download buttons for Mac and PC>

- Save this file on your desktop so you can find it. You only have to download it once.
- Double click on the file to run it. Enter the code from TV screen (four-digit number).

<screen shot of login dialog box>

- Once the Air Media app is started, use the center icon on the right to open the control menu. (Select full screen to display your computer full screen on the TV / select a quadrant to share the screen with up to four computers.)
- To stop presenting, click the square symbol (stop) in the center of the Air Media player.

Attachment – Collaboration Station Photos



**Primary Collaboration Station, First Floor, Mabee Library
(Crestron Air Media unit hidden behind flat screen TV monitor)**



**Primary Collaboration Station, First Floor, Mabee Library
(instruction sheet in Plexiglas holder; multiple power outlets)**



Primary Collaboration Station, First Floor, Mabee Library
(custom work surface with seating for five; chairs have arms and casters)



**One of the two secondary collaboration stations, in study rooms,
Second Floor, Mabee Library**