TOPIC: Update: William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Student Life

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: March 8, 2016

SUMMARY: The USM's William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation was established in June 2013 to enhance and promote the System's position as a national leader in higher education academic innovation. The Center's charge is to capitalize on recent findings from the learning sciences and the capabilities of emerging technologies to increase access, affordability, and outcomes of higher education. We are bringing together academic change leaders from across the System to identify ways we might improve the success of students, evaluate the feasibility of these approaches, share our findings, and scale-up and sustain the most promising models.

Working at the System level has been vital to the impact that the Center has had to date. Our position allows us to leverage the collective strengths of our diverse institutions, which are working together to support innovation across the USM. From this vantage point we have been able to:

1. Create a collaborative environment to support innovation both among the USM institutions and across the State of Maryland.
2. Incubate initiatives aimed at catalyzing change.
3. Remove barriers that block progress.
4. Lead the national conversation on academic transformation.

Dr. MJ Bishop, Director of the Kirwan Center, will share an update on the Center's progress since her last report.

ALTERNATIVE(S): This is an information item.

FISCAL IMPACT: This is an information item.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Information Only   DATE: March 8, 2016

BOARD ACTION: DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Joann A. Boughman   301-445-1992   jboughman@usmd.edu

Board of Regents
Educational Policy and Student Life
Committee Update

March 2016

Dr. MJ Bishop, Director
mjbishop@usmd.edu

Charge

- To capitalize on recent findings from the learning sciences and the capabilities of emerging technologies to increase access, affordability, and quality of higher education.

- To identify best practices and facilitate efforts to take them to scale.

Staff

Director:
MJ Bishop, Ed.D.

Associate Director for Research and Evaluation:
Steven C. Ehrmann, Ph.D., retiring

Project Manager:
Nancy O'Neill (part time 75%)

Administrative Assistant:
Kathy Thorne (has 40% responsibility to KCAI.)

Funding

Kirwan Legacy Gift: Almost $3M endowment.

Annual State Budget: approx. $275,000 (salaries)

One-time "Start-up" Funds: $430,000

Grants for initiatives: $1.25M in project funding.

Challenges

- Scarce resources.

- Difficulty of raising funds for operations support.

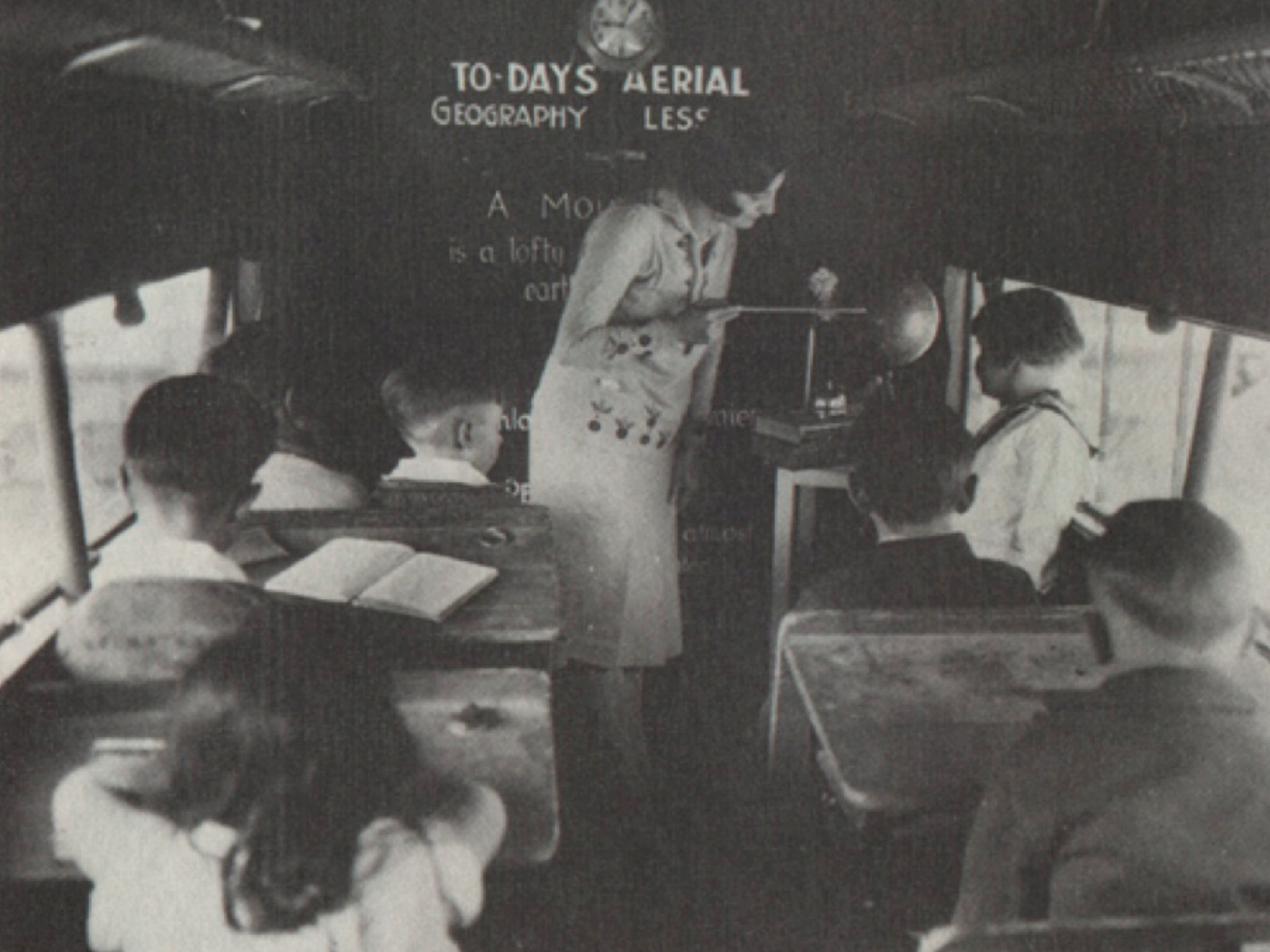- Technology is not a panacea, requires culture change.

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Opportunities

- We have a good deal of strength upon which we can build.

- Institutions are eager to collaborate on finding ways to improve student success.

- The power of convening.

- Working from very clear and consistent goals.

Impact to Date

- Creating a collaborative environment to support innovation both among the USM institutions and across the State of Maryland.

- Incubating initiatives aimed at catalyzing change.

- Removing barriers that block progress.

- Leading the national conversation on academic transformation.

Creating a Collaborative Environment

- Councils
  - Academic Transformation Advisory Council (ATAC)
  - Council for Program and Faculty Development (CPFD)
  - Kirwan Center Advisory Board
- Convenings
  - General Education
  - Gamification
- Other collaborations
  - Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MAAC)
  - Maryland Independent Colleges and Universities Association (MICUA)
  - National Association of System Heads (NASH)

Incubating Initiatives

- PAR/SSMx Predictive Analytics Initiative

- EdX Partnership (MOOCs/online)

- Maryland Open Source Textbook (MOST) Initiative

- USM Digital Badging Initiative

- Gates Next Generation Courseware Challenge (Adaptive Learning)

- Competency-based Education

Removing Barriers

- Inter-institutional IRB and Data Sharing

- Net Assignable Square Feet (NASF)

- Faculty Workload Policy

- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

- Social Media Policy

Leading the National Conversation

- Inaugural Leading Academic Change Summit

- National Environmental Scan of Academic Change Leadership

- Initiatives in the news (MOOCs, Digital Badging Challenge, MOST)

- Regularly called upon to present USM successes (Gates, Teagle, Quality Matters, EDUCAUSE, AAC&U, AASCU, NASH)

CENTER *for* ACADEMIC INNOVATION

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