

TOPIC: William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation Update

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Student Life

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, May 16, 2017

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 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; and
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 ACTION: Information Only

DATE: May 16, 2017

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Joann A. Boughman

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WILLIAM E. KIRWAN
CENTER *for* ACADEMIC INNOVATION

USM Board of Regents

**KIRWAN CENTER
SPRING 2017
UPDATE**

JUNE 16, 2017

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Kirwan Center Mission

- To capitalize on recent findings from the learning sciences and the capabilities of emerging technologies to increase postsecondary **access, affordability, and achievement**.
- To identify best practices and facilitate efforts to take them to scale across USM institutions.

Impact to Date

- Creating a collaborative environment to support innovation both among the USM institutions and across the State of Maryland.
- Removing barriers that block progress.
- Incubating initiatives aimed at catalyzing change.

Creating a Collaborative Environment

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

Removing Barriers

- Social Media Policy
- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
- Faculty Workload Policy
- Inter-institutional IRB and Data Sharing
- Net Assignable Square Feet (NASF)
- Accessibility discussions

Incubating Initiatives

- Analytics
- Open Educational Resources
- Digital Badging
- Online Learning/MOOCs

Analytics: A System-Wide Discussion

- Contracted with the Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework.
- Working with some of our institutions on full PAR implementation.
- Engaging all institutions in the Student Success Matrix (SSM^x) process.

Analytics: Student Success Matrix (SSMx)

Predictors/Time	Connection	Entry	Progress	Completion
Learner characteristics				
Learner behaviors				
Fit/feelings of belonging				
Other learner support				
Course/program characteristics				
Instructor behaviors/characteristics				

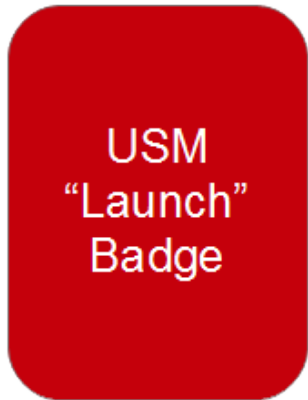
USM Digital Badging Project

To design, implement, and evaluate a constellation of complementary digital badges aimed at validating and communicating our graduates' career-ready skills.

Our immediate interim project goal is to collaboratively develop one badge to test at each participating institution in AY 2016-17 as a proof of concept.

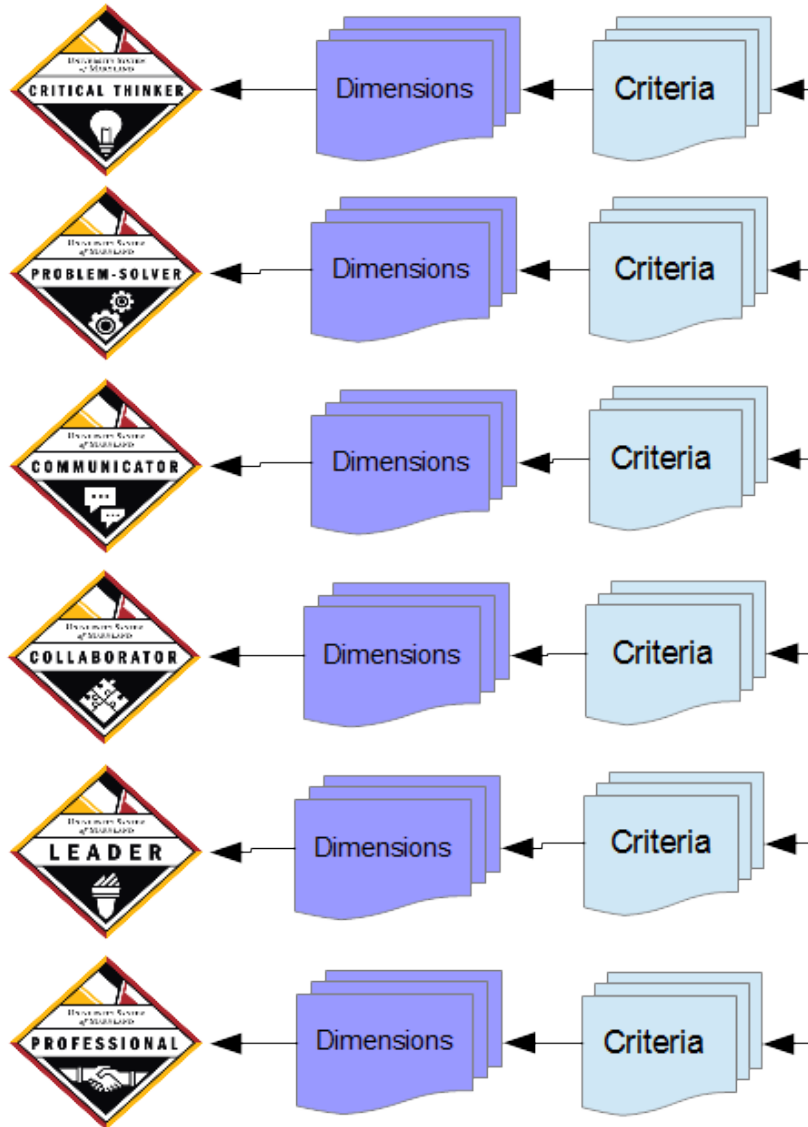
Career-Ready Digital Badges

Evidence-Based Criteria



An open badge granted by the USM certifying that earners are ready to start their careers.

Through the process of acquiring all of the career-ready badges, earners will hone their ability to identify and articulate their career-ready skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to the positions and/or careers they seek.



Competencies based on skills identified by employers as critical for career success (aligned to NACE framework)

Defined by USM Digital Badging Initiative Collaborative

Assessment criteria will be predetermined and include rubrics to assess evidence that a badge earner met the criterion.

USM Institution Eligible Programs, Courses, Prior Learning, Experiences

Determining eligible programs and Experiences, and acceptable prior learning will be up to each institution... although we hope there will be some sharing of resources and best practices.

OERs: MOST Initiative

- Began August 2013 as collaboration between USM-SC and the Kirwan Center.
- Grounded in the idea that text choice should remain the prerogative of faculty.
- Being led by USM, but open to faculty from all Maryland higher education institutions.

OERs: MOST Progress to Date

- Since Spring 2014, 63 faculty have participated from 14 institutions across Maryland.
- Over 3800 students impacted, saving \$141 per course on average.
- Cumulative savings over \$1.6M (assuming courses offered once per year and level enrollments).
- 2017 Textbook Cost Savings Act

Online Learning/MOOCs: USMx

- Signed agreement April 2016
- UMB/UMUC Global Health MOOC (Sept 2016)
- 5 UMUC MicroMasters Programs (+40K)
- Actively exploring other projects:
 - UMES Hospitality Management
 - Coppin Nursing
 - UMCP Business Analytics
 - UMB/Towson Medical Educators program

Leading the National Conversation

- Regularly called upon to share USM successes (Gates, Teagle, Quality Matters, NASH)
- Asked to consult on national projects
 - IMS Global Open Badges for Education Extensions
 - Lumina’s Traditional Higher Education Model Redesign Project
 - Gates Convening on Leadership and Faculty
 - AASCU’s Redesigning the First Year
- Publishing and presenting findings from initiatives (ACE, WCET, NUTN, OpenEd, EDUCAUSE, AAC&U).

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.

Challenges

- Technology is not a panacea, requires culture change.
- Scarce resources.
- Difficulty of raising funds for operations support, particularly personnel.

Funding

Projects:

- Over \$2M in project funding

Operating:

- One-time “Start-up” Funds: \$430,000
- Kirwan Legacy Gift: Almost \$3M endowment
- Annual State Budget: approx. \$275,000
 - Director/Associate Director Salaries
 - Project Management Support
 - \$20-25K operating



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