Learning Space Spotlight:
Informal Learning Space: Noel Studio for Academic Creativity
Crabbe Library, Eastern Kentucky University

Website: http://studio.eku.edu/

Vision: "The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity inspires 21st-century critical and creative thinking in the design of highly effective communication and research through multiple modes and media by employing an innovative integrated pedagogy within the EKU community and nationwide." From: http://studio.eku.edu/vision-and-mission.

Details:
- Year built: September 2010
- Size: 10,000 square-foot space
- Capacity: 295


Key Features:
- Invention space: includes jumbo wall-to-wall whiteboard and oversized tablet paper, comfy couches, copycam to take photos of whiteboard, low-tech manipulatives include Legos, Play-doh, Jenga, and various art supplies.
- Breakout space: book for up to 2 hours, holds 4-10 people, comfortable chairs and attached desktops, with computer and corresponding wall monitor, and a wall-mounted white board.
- Presentation suite: includes private rooms for 1-3 people booked for 2 hours with a computer, a corresponding wall monitor, a wall-mounted whiteboard, a podium, and a wall-mounted video camera; public presentation area with mobile work tables and chairs; computer cluster for individuals with HP TouchSmart computers.
- Greenhouse: contains Collaboration Station and modular, movable furniture where most consultations happen, several wall-mounted HP Touchsmart computers of various sizes, two
Mac computers, with the full Adobe suite, a Cultivation Station with six HP TouchSmart computers for individual work after consultations, and a reflection stations with two high-top tables next to several outlets for use with personal laptops. **Discovery classroom:** a private room for up to 30 students containing 30 laptops and 3 projectors with movable, comfortable, furniture. **Conference room:** a private, Interactive Tele-Video (ITV), capable room primarily used for meetings containing a projector and a wall-mounted camera.

### Technologies

The Noel Studio “houses the latest technologies for developing and refining a variety of texts and communication pieces. This list includes a CopyCam system, articulating monitors, touch-screen technology, video equipment, Macs, and PCs. And a variety of low-tech resources for collaboration and invention, including mobile dry erase boards, thought-provoking games, and inspiring manipulatives.”

### Innovative Use of Space

The Noel Studio features spaces where students can focus on invention—highlighting divergent thinking—and focused revision of texts—highlighting convergent thinking. Many of the monitors are also touch-screen, allowing students to fully engage texts during the creation and design process. Visitors will find that the space reflects an appreciation for multiple learning styles. The studio hosts workshops, seminars, guest speakers, and collaborative sessions including hosting conferences like Southeastern Writing Center Association (SWCA) conference and National Association of Communication Centers (NACC) conference in 2012; see Features for an array of other uses.

### Staffing

**Administrators:** One director, three coordinators, one technology associate, and one administrative assistant.  
**Advisers:** Interdisciplinary group of leaders from across campus.  
**Student-consultants:** Student staff members—known as consultants—consist of graduate M.A. students, graduate research consultants, and undergraduate students from across the disciplines.

### Press

**Press releases and national recognition:** [http://studio.eku.edu/insidelook](http://studio.eku.edu/insidelook)  
**Papers and presentations:** [http://studio.eku.edu/scholarly-activity](http://studio.eku.edu/scholarly-activity)

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Profile by Beth Filar Williams, the Coordinator of Library Services for Distance & Online Learning at the University Libraries of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.