City Tech’s OpenLab: Community Partnerships for Innovation and Integration

CUNY IT CONFERENCE 2015

E-mail openlab@citytech.cuny.edu
Twitter @CityTechOpenLab
URL openlab.citytech.cuny.edu
OpenLab at City Tech

openlab@citytech.cuny.edu
openlab.citytech.cuny.edu
@CityTechOpenLab
The OpenLab Encourages Openness and Collaboration

The design of the platform encourages openness: unlike closed educational systems, the OpenLab allows members across the college to communicate with one another and the world outside City Tech.

Like a lab, it provides a space where the entire college community can work together, experiment, and innovate. Members can participate in discussion forums, edit documents together, create profiles and portfolios, share multimedia content, comment on one another’s work, send messages, and make friendship connections.
our team

living lab project director: Jonas Reitz
living lab project co-director: Charlie Edwards
OpenLab co-directors: Jill Belli, Genevieve Hitchings, Jody Rosen, Jenna Spevack

instructional technology fellow: Bree Zuckerman
community facilitators: Scott Henkle, Andy McKinney, Tyler Peckenpaugh, Destry Sibley

developers: Boone Gorges, early-adopter

system administrator: André Pitanga
student graphic designers: Faculty Commons Design Team
student bloggers: Jean Luc Antoine, Amoni Brown, Shawn Brumell, Jessica Deng, Konyca Francis, Amanda Marmol, Mandy Mei, Brianna Vasquez
Additional presenters

Anna Matthews
Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, L4 Director
New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Laura Westengard
Assistant Professor of English, L4 Director
New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Cailean Cooney
Instructor, User Services Librarian,
New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Patrick Corbett
Assistant Professor of English,
New York City College of Technology, CUNY
L4: LIVING LAB LEARNING LIBRARY

- A virtual resource exchange of teaching practices
- Open to colleagues within and outside City Tech
- [https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/l4/](https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/l4/)
L4: Living Lab Learning Library
A virtual resource exchange of teaching practices

What worked for us?

What research is out there?

Activities

What should I know first?

What is this site? Who are we? What worked for us? How do I know if it worked? What research is out there? Where can I find out more?

What worked for us?

General Education SLOs
Schools
High Impact Educational Practices
How do I know if it worked?

Welcome to the center of the L4 site! Below you will find a searchable list of activities and assignments that were submitted by City Tech faculty.

To submit an activity, complete the Activity Template.

To continue an open discussion about innovative teaching practices, visit the Discussion Board.
ACTIVITY TEMPLATE FORM

- Created to simplify submission process
- Online fillable
- For activities from homework assignments to semester-long projects
- SIMPLE and FAST
http://cityte.ch/oer

open educational resources

Ursula C. Schwerin Library
http://cityte.ch/oer
Osmosis and Diffusion

Table of contents

1. Understanding Membranes
2. Diffusion
3. Osmosis
3.1 Further Reading

Understanding Membranes

The cell membrane is the barrier that separates the cytoplasm from the internal cytoplasm with the external world. The cell membrane consists primarily of phospholipids in a bilayer. Phospholipids are amphipathic with a polar head (phosphate group) and a hydrophobic tail (2 hydrocarbon chains). Due to the chemical properties of the heads being attracted to water and the tails having a desire to avoid water, phospholipids self-assemble into micelles. Cell membranes form from a phospholipid bilayer where the lipid tails interact with each other and the phosphate heads face the external water environment or the internal cytoplasm of the cell.

The cell membrane does not solely consist of phospholipids but also have proteins and cholesterol inserted into the bilayer. As the image of the bilayer above indicates, the molecules are constantly moving and flow in a lateral motion. Cholesterol modulates the fluidity of this motion. Proteins associated with the membrane may sit on either side (peripheral proteins) of the membrane or pass through both layers of the membrane (transmembrane proteins). The model that describes the components of the cellular membrane is referred to as the Fluid Mosaic Model. This model states that the cell membrane is a mosaic of 1) Phospholipids 2) Proteins 3) cholesterol that move about in a side to side motion.
HOW FACULTY USE OPENLAB

**Blogging**
- Self-reflection & journaling
- Research reporting
- Formative feedback & assessment
- Initiating topic discussions

**ePortfolio**
- Document & track student progress
- Provide control of content to students

**Advising**
- Encourage student self-advising
- Making materials available to future students
BUT WAIT!
THERE’S MORE!

● Integrate multiple sections of one course into a large discussion format.
● Integrate student online participation across a course sequence into one location.
● Create informal discussions between students who are interning/studying abroad with future cohorts.
● Share own projects and research with internal and external audiences.
● “Hack” functionality to integrate with other information applications and technologies.
● Experiment with online content creation.
NOTES ON FACULTY’S INVESTMENTS IN OPENLAB

- All faculty interviewed or surveyed came to OpenLab through faculty development programming.
- Most faculty are strongly engaged by the ideas of open pedagogy and community building.
- All faculty preferred OpenLab to Blackboard as a pedagogical tool.
- Technology-hesitant faculty saw OpenLab as a good investment of their time.
- Faculty new to “hybrid” teaching used OpenLab to develop a multi-modal teaching practice.
Why I Love to Cook

Posted on December 2, 2013 by Jessica

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and was able to eat lots of good food! I know I did. If you’ve been following my blog posts then you know that I normally like to write about restaurants, lists of foods I like, and etc. Today I would like to share with you why I love to cook, because even though I don’t have time to do it as much as I’d like to, I still love it! So here’s five reasons why I love to cook –
Introducing OpenLab 1.6

The OpenLab has a new design, and is now much easier to use on mobile devices.
The OpenLab: People, Courses, Projects, Clubs, and Portfolios

The OpenLab was developed with individual courses, clubs, projects, and portfolios, but as its users and uses have evolved, we have received numerous member requests for opportunities for better integration of these sites, especially for cohort-focus initiatives.
The Challenge:

1. Currently large groups exist on the OpenLab, but size limits connection and communication among members.

2. Smaller communities thrive on the OpenLab, but there is no easy mechanism for connection and communication among them.
Cohort Communities

Cohort communities can be created within large initiatives (e.g. CUNY Service Corps, student orientation), enabling small group communications and connections.

Related groups can be connected to one another, enabling networks within networks.

This new hub-and-spoke functionality allows initiatives to scale up exponentially while supporting smaller cohorts, offering increased opportunities for mentoring, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and support, all proven factors of college success.
OPENING GATEWAYS:
PARTNERS IN MATH
City Tech’s OpenLab: Community Partnerships for Innovation and Integration

CUNY IT CONFERENCE 2015

E-mail openlab@citytech.cuny.edu
Twitter @CityTechOpenLab
URL openlab.citytech.cuny.edu