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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Breaking the Classroom**  The title intrigued me.  What exactly was breaking in this classroom?  Glass?  Desktops?  Computers?  At the 2018 Annual TASSR Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, Ashley Raburn and his colleagues from Cleveland State Community College had a lot to explain in their concurrent session.  Turns out Mr. Raburn, Mark McLeod, Victoria Bryan, and Matt Tolbert have a vision to move from a teaching environment to a learning environment.  They want to create a space for student-centered, active and collaborative learning.  It’s the instructor who creates the environment and facilitates the learning process, but they want to allow for learner-centric content creation.  The physical classroom is critical to creating this type of environment since, as Marshall McLuhan famously said, “the medium is the message.” | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Mark McLeod is an Associate Professor of Art at Cleveland State.  In the past he’s shepherded many successful students in his art studio classes.  However, he wasn’t satisfied with the lower success rates in his lecture-based art history classes.  He volunteered to teach in the new Dynamic Learning Lab in an attempt to enhance the learning in art history.  To his surprise, it not only improved his students’ success rates, it forced Mr. McLeod to completely change how he teaches.  Now, instead of only lectures with a few videos thrown in, the class has space for more effective learning opportunities such as research and role-playing, student printmaking demonstrations, and small group discussions using the whiteboard easels to tackle complex topics like the Counter Reformation. | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Dr. Victoria Bryan is the Honors Program Director at Cleveland State.  She helped “break” another undesirable classroom and turn it in to a room that works.  Along with painting vibrant green and dark blue feature walls, she furnished the room with small, movable, interlocking tables, node chairs, and even a set of personal whiteboards along with the white board easels and two Promethean boards.  Dr. Bryan noted that students feel comfortable moving the furniture to suit the day’s activities.  In fact, the students just plain feel comfortable in the room and even choose to meet there for small group study sessions outside of class time.  In the words of Cleveland State students, “most of the classes I have been in require student discussions and hands-on learning which are difficult in traditional classrooms.”    The dynamic classrooms “make group work the center of the classroom” where “everyone can be involved.”  Classes in the new dynamic classrooms are “conducted as a discussion and helped me retain information better than had it just been spoken as normal.”  Sounds like Cleveland State is making an impact on student learning by actually fixing what was previously broken. | | |