

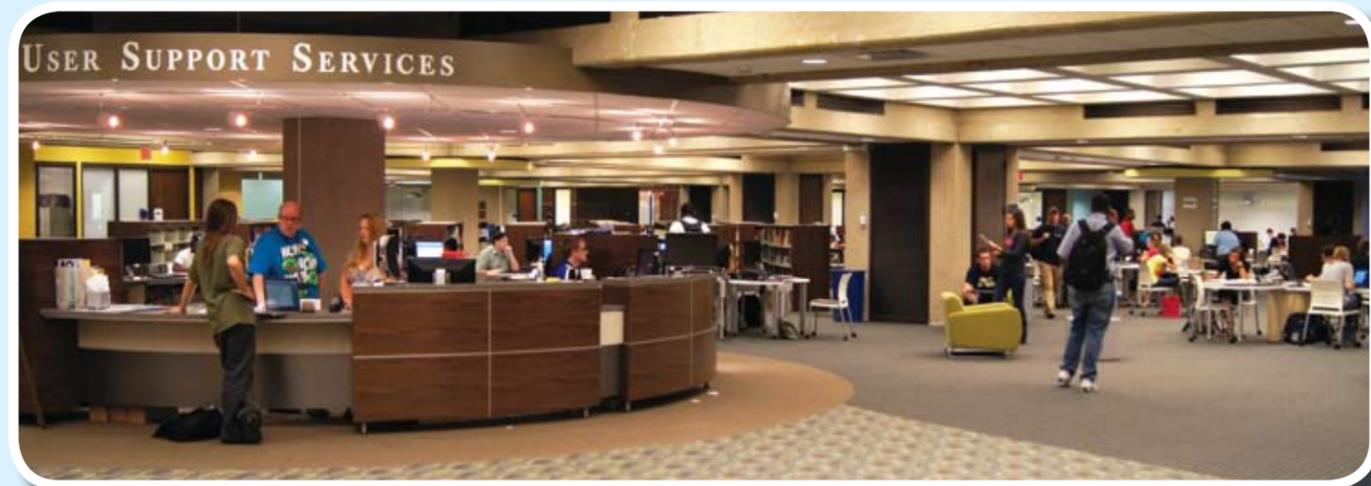
Service Centers



Check-out, reserves, ILL and OhioLINK



Laptop/equipment loan; ZipSupport



Research and resource assistance; tech support for workstations and multimedia

Photo credits: Institutional Marketing, Jamie Newhall, and Joe Williams.

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On my mind . . .

Dean Cheryl Kern-Simirenko

The **Bierce Learning Commons** is all about student success, as outlined in both Vision 2020 and the University Libraries' strategic plan. We want our students to KNOW the ROO. Research shows that student engagement with the library is highly correlated with retention and graduation. Our goal is to empower users to both discover knowledge and create it.

Several years ago, we invited the campus community to imagine an "uncommon place designed for learning" that would:

- Provide a variety of learning environments;
- Centralize access to expertise;
- Bring together learners, experts, tools and information; and
- Support the integration of skills in information literacy, communication technology, writing, math and other course competencies – all integrated with subject content in the curriculum.

An "uncommon place" that would:

- Enable collaboration and social learning;
- Provide opportunities for state-of-the-art multimedia development and integration;
- Support the enhancement of technology-enabled instruction;
- Facilitate the introduction of innovative instructional methodologies;
- Encourage innovation and enable discovery; and
- Highlight research and academic achievement.

The Bierce Learning Commons is that place, with both the physical space and the service model transformed to actively support today's learning. Successful 21st century learning means using technology tools to:

- Access, evaluate, select, manage and integrate information;
- Produce new knowledge; and
- Communicate that new knowledge to others.

It is a place designed for all our users to congregate, collaborate, and create – and have a cup of coffee to help energize the first three!

We have followed collaborative approaches in designing the Learning Commons. First and foremost, it is a partnership, involving University Libraries, Information Technology Services, the



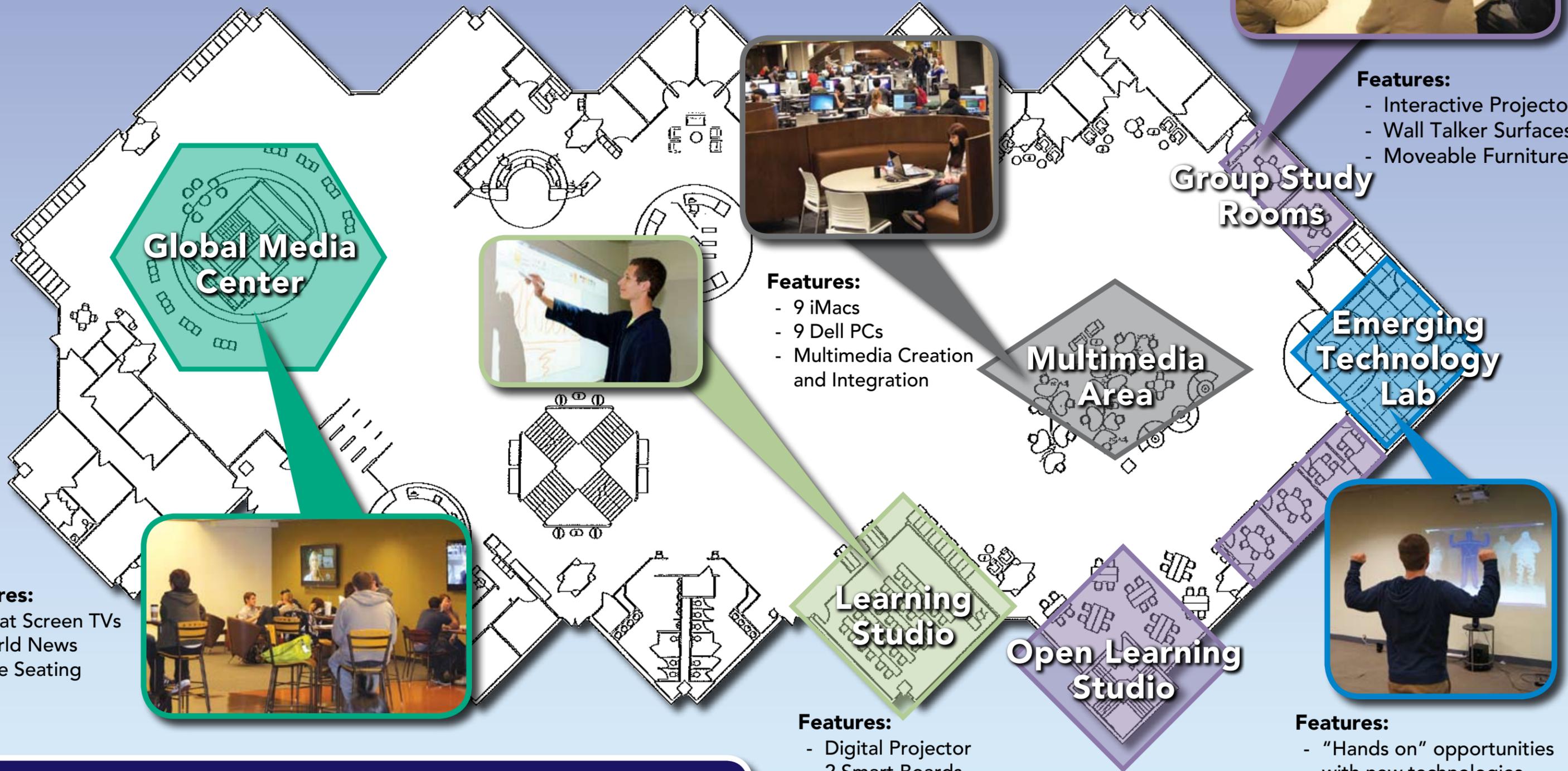
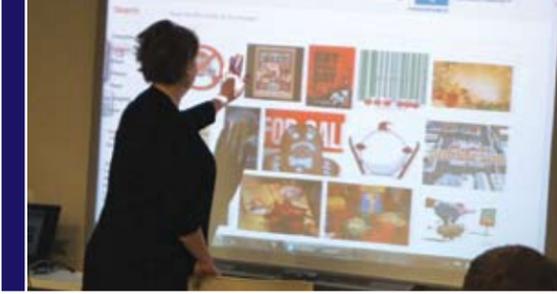
Ribbon-cutting Ceremony
Bierce Learning Commons
October 7, 2011

Office of Student Academic Success, and the Institute for Teaching and Learning. This partnership is focused on the integration of services and qualitative research on learning spaces. We've brought together expertise in information services, tutoring and IT support – creating an environment conducive to engaged learning – one that is open to EVERY student.

Moreover, the entire campus community – faculty, staff and students – was represented in the planning groups as well as through surveys and focus groups. Student leaders were with us every step of the way, giving generously of their time, energy and creativity. Likewise, our corporate advisers, many of whom are alumni – helped us shape technology-enabled opportunities for users, based on the skills needed in today's workplace. They were both eloquent and explicit in sharing their perspectives as employers.

The global media center, learning studios, multimedia creation area, tech-enhanced group studies, new service centers and the emerging technology lab (currently featuring Microsoft's Kinect, a natural computer interface that connects the visual and motor domains) are designed to inspire students to inquire, discover, create and innovate using the resources of the Learning Commons.





- Features:**
- 7 Flat Screen TVs
 - World News
 - Cafe Seating



- Features:**
- 9 iMacs
 - 9 Dell PCs
 - Multimedia Creation and Integration



- Features:**
- "Hands on" opportunities with new technologies
 - Gesture-based Computing
 - Image Sensing with Depth
 - Motion Capture

- Features:**
- Digital Projector
 - 2 Smart Boards
 - 3 Digital Displays
 - Wall Talker Surfaces
 - Moveable Furniture

- Features:**
- Interactive Projectors
 - Wall Talker Surfaces
 - Moveable Furniture

"...the real genius of this Learning Commons is the collaborative environment it creates, a place where ideas can collide together and produce amazing new insights.... [It] will serve as one of our University's most visible expressions of...collective intelligence in action...."

Luis M. Proenza, President, October 7, 2011