eLearning Backpack Project
Cohort 1 Report – July, 2015

What is the eLearning Backpack Project?

The eLearning Backpack provides an opportunity to help faculty create and deliver engaging content while leveraging enterprise systems that have been implemented campus-wide, such as Echo360, Kaltura Media and WebEx. This is accomplished by providing a backpack full of instructional technology and providing consultation, where needed, for the use and implementation of the technology to support pedagogical goals. The project has a focus on technology adoption and community building since participants remain as mentors for the next cohort as a condition for keeping the backpack technology.

Cohort 1 was initially funded by a grant from the Faculty Development Council (FDC) in the amount of $21,329 in order to purchase ten (10) eLearning backpacks. The Backpack project is part of an ongoing partnership between eLearning staff consultants, faculty members from the university community, and various college IT staff, including Jason Day (CoN), Apple Foundations Trainer.
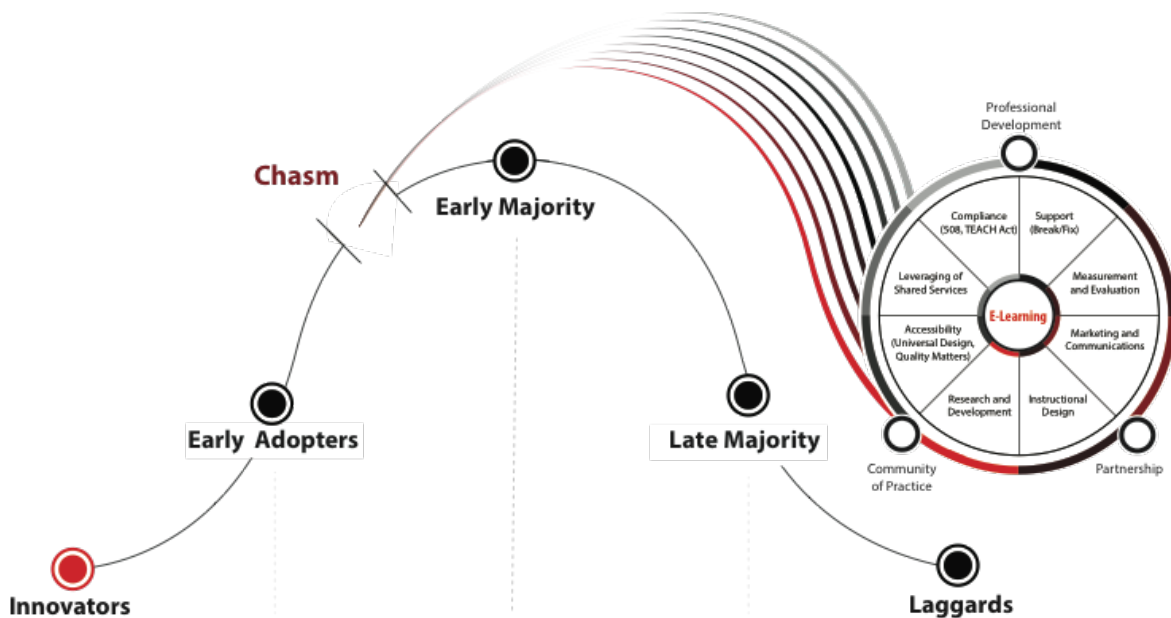
How did the project get started?

The Center for Excellence in eLearning submitted a proposal to the FDC to fund the eLearning Backpack project. The proposal focused on partnering with faculty to promote innovative eLearning solutions and identify technologies which could be scaled across the enterprise. With the broad range of technology tools that are available in the Canopy ecosystem, it promotes a way to take advantage of and augment enterprise solutions, such as Kaltura open source video and Echo360 active learning. The proposed costs to support this experimental project were approximately $2000 per backpack which would be difficult for departments to fund.

Who was the target audience?

As with any new initiative, we sought to target individuals that would be willing to work through the challenges that naturally occur when incorporating innovative technologies into the teaching and learning experience. On the technology adoption curve, these people would be the **Innovators** and **Early Adopters.**

Technology Adoption Curve

What equipment was included in the Backpack?

Below is a table of the equipment that was included in the eLearning backpacks for cohort 1:

Proposed Equipment	Image	Quantity	Price	Total
Apple TV – Installed in classrooms. Allows faculty mobility with wireless display of information from iPads and Mac laptops.		10	$99.00	$999.00
iPad Air – Apple tablet, which allows wireless internet access, video lecture recording and content display in conjunction with the Apple TV.		10	$499.00	$4990.00
Wacom Cintiq 13HD – Interactive monitor/tablet, which allows faculty to annotate web pages, presentations and create and edit content on the fly.		10	$999.00	$9990.00
Pelican Backpack – Rugged storage option for transporting technology.		10	$175.00	$1750.00
Stylus – writing/navigation tool for iPad Air.		10	$10.00	$100.00
Wireless USB Mic – Allows faculty classroom mobility when delivering lectures; used in conjunction with Echo360 lecture capture software.		10	$200.00	$2000.00
Plantronics Noise Cancelling Headset – To record voice over narrations and tutorials using the Kaltura Streaming system, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Camtasia Studio.		10	$75.00	$750.00
Camtasia Studio Software – Allows faculty to record screen activity and edit video to create custom content. Camtasia is an alternative to Kaltura.		10 (single user licenses)	$75.00	$750.00
Grand Total				**$21,329.00**

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What was the process to apply for a backpack?

Using the SurveyMonkey tool, we developed a competitive process for full-time faculty to submit their applications. Faculty were asked to elaborate on their use cases and articulate how they would incorporate using the backpack equipment as part of their teaching. Applications were scored by the selection committee based on a published rubric (see Appendix A). We aimed for broad representation in terms of skill level, college diversity, course delivery modality and discipline. Points were also awarded for utilizing existing Canopy tools and participating in other Canopy initiatives including the Echo360 and Kaltura pilots and the Great Gateways initiative.

The Selection Committee for Cohort 1 included:

- Rebecca Leugers - Faculty Senate
- Rob Rokey - Faculty Senate IT
- Melinda Rhodes DeSalvo – CET&L ID/Pedagogy Expert
- eLearning Staff

What was our communication plan?

Application availability was announced via the Faculty listserv. The application deadline was extended once to accommodate additional submissions. Once the participants were selected, information was published on a Backpack web page on the Canopy web site and in several Canopy newsletters. An article also appeared in eCurrents showcasing the selected participants for cohort 1.

Who was selected as part of Cohort 1?

We received a total of 26 completed applications for the eLearning backpacks for cohort 1. Of the 26 applications received, there were 10 faculty backpack awards.
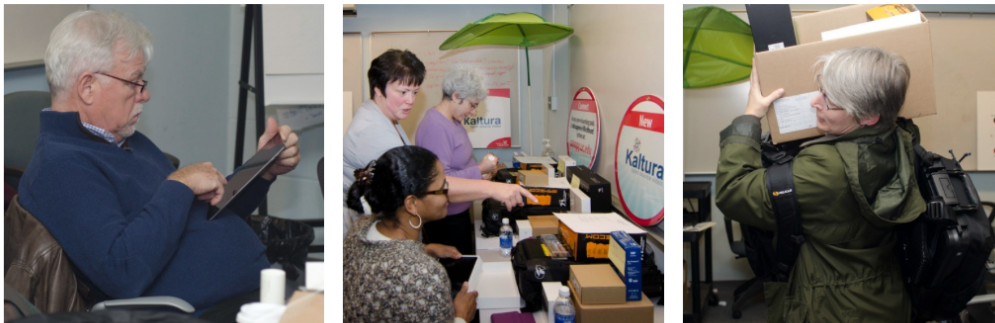
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eLearning Backpack Project

The eLearning Backpack Project is an initiative to provide faculty with backpacks loaded with tools that will allow them to fully leverage the new services available in Canopy. It is an opportunity for faculty to reimagine how they create/deliver course content and engage with their students.

The first cohort of backpackers have been chosen and paired with members of the **Center for Excellence in eLearning**, who have set aisde 20 hours of group and one-on-one partnership per semester to help the members with their vision, to identify use cases and to establish best practices for these new services. There will also be faculty development and community building opportunities throughout the process.

Keep watching for updates, and get an in-depth look at how they are progressing in upcoming editions of the Canopy Newsletter.

Introducing Canopy's first cohort of eLearning Backpackers:

Ruth Benander

UC Blue Ash

Course: Intro to English Composition

Type: Face to Face

Gary Dick

College of Allied Health Sciences

Course: Research II

Type: Face to Face

Sherry Donaworth

College of Nursing

Course: Pharmacology for Adv Nursing Practice

Type: Online

Wendy Eisner

McMicken College of Arts & Sciences

Course: Crowded Greenhouse

Type: Face to Face

Daniel Waddell

McMicken College of Arts & Sciences

Course: Organic Chemistry II

Type: Face to Face

Udo Greinacher

DAAP

Course: InMotion - Elective Theory Lab/Seminar

Type: Blended/Hybrid

Julia Montier-Ball

McMicken College of Arts & Sciences

Course: Career Development for Arts & Sciences

Type: Face to Face

Michal Raucher

McMicken College of Arts & Sciences

Course: History of Jewish Civilization II

Type: Face to Face

Todd Foley

ProPEL

Course: Intro to Coop CEAS

Type: Face to Face

Krista Wood

UC Blue Ash

Course: General Physics II

Type: Face to Face

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What was the feedback from faculty on using the eLearning backpack?

- Faculty were surveyed at the midpoint and at the conclusion of the academic year to collect feedback on their use of the tools in the eLearning backpacks. Below is a summary of the feedback that was received from Cohort 1 faculty:

The eLearning Backpack project has:

Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Helped me to create/deliver engaging content	6	3	0	0	1	10
Changed aspects of how I teach	5	4	0	0	1	10
Allowed me to leverage existing technologies	6	2	1	0	1	10
Helped me to share ideas with colleagues	6	3	0	0	1	10
Helped increase student engagement in my classes	7	2	0	0	1	10
Given me new ideas for how to create/deliver content	9	0	0	0	1	10
					answered question	10
					skipped question	0

- 90% would recommend the eLearning Backpack project to a colleague and provided faculty names for consideration for Cohort 2.
- 80% were willing to share samples of work they had created using the backpack tools.
  - Several faculty have created reflective videos to share their thoughts with members of cohort 2.
- 80% committed to partnering with the backpackers in cohort 2.
  - The others expressed interest in continuing with the project as members of the 2nd cohort in order to learn more and have a better understanding of the tools.

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A large portion of faculty teaching plans centered on their ability to use the iPad with the Apple TV in the course. One participant expressed frustration with the inability to incorporate the Apple TV into her classroom until late in the term. As a result, an invitation was extended to continue as a participant in cohort 2.

Several faculty shared the following testimonials on the impact they felt the eLearning backpack had on their teaching:

"This backpack has seriously revolutionized the way I teach and interact with my students. Not to mention that it has provided me the opportunity to test out eLearning strategies in my courses and programs so that I can now champion them in my department…" - **Todd Foley**

"Not only has the eLearning Backpack project given me access to exciting technological tools to develop pedagogy but also has allowed me to become part of a community of innovation." - **Daniel Waddell**

"The backpack suite of tools was great to have on hand so that we could experiment as a class. We started with the teaching and learning, and then we wondered how the variety of tech would help us." - **Ruth Benander**

What presentations were conducted on the eLearning Backpack project?

The eLearning Backpack project was presented at the UC Clermont's 3T: Teaching, Techniques, and Technology conference and at an eLearning collaborative visit to Ohio State University, both in April 2015. We also presented on the project and the results of Cohort 1 at BbWorld in Washington, DC in July 2016. All three presentations received positive feedback.

What were the total final expenditures for Cohort 1?

The total equipment costs incurred for cohort 1 of the eLearning Backpack project were $31,823.64. This included $10,494.64 which was contributed by UCIT eLearning to support the project (see Appendix B):

Total Spent for Cohort 1	31,823.64
Total FDC Award	-21,329.00
Total UCIT budget cost	$10,494.64

What other opportunities resulted from the success of the project?

As a result of our experiences in cohort 1 of the eLearning Backpack project, we invested approximately $6000.00 on Wacom Cintiq tablets and noise cancelling headsets in support of Great Gateways Math faculty. We also provided faculty training and support in the utilization of these technology tools. This investment of funds and staff resources has helped faculty generate pre-planned and just-in-time videos, as well as rich feedback on student assignments. The faculty are eagerly embracing the technology and feedback to-date has been very positive. Were it not for the eLearning Backpack project, these serendipitous alignments may not have been made.

What's next for the eLearning Backpack?

Heeding the advice of the faculty members from cohort 1 to follow the academic rhythm, we began the application process for cohort 2 in June. This new timeline allowed us to select participants in summer and give them a chance to acclimate to the tools, incorporate the tools into their classes in the fall, and refine their approaches in spring. We received 57 completed applications. The selection committee awarded 26 backpacks for cohort 2, including a cluster of 5 adjunct faculty. Selection was based on the same rubric that was used for cohort 1 (see Appendix A).

The selection committee for cohort 2 included:

- Rob Rokey – Faculty Senate IT
- Bryan Smith – CET&L ID/Pedagogy Expert
- Krista Wood – Cohort 1
- Todd Foley – Cohort 1
- eLearning Staff

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The kickoff meeting for cohort 2 was held on July 17 to distribute the eLearning backpacks and share the various resources that are available to new backpackers. Faculty will be implementing plans in at least one course for both fall and spring semesters. Monthly community of practice meetings will be facilitated by the Center for Excellence in eLearning to encourage collaboration among all project members and to support faculty initiatives. These meetings have been scheduled for the academic year and the dates are published on Canopy under the eLearning Backpack Project web page.

To honor the feedback from faculty to be mindful of the academic rhythm, the IT@UC Center for Excellence in eLearning (CEeL) committed funds for cohort 2. CEeL will be seeking additional FDC funding to cover expenses for cohort 2.

Phase 2 of the project will have a pointed focus on student impact as well as faculty use and satisfaction. We are partnering with the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning (CET&L) to develop the cohort 2 evaluation plan. All participating faculty are required to take part in the evaluation plans and create 1 to 2 minute reflective videos for each semester.

The Center for Excellence in eLearning is excited about continuing the eLearning Backpack Project for another year. We look forward to partnering with members of both cohort 1 and cohort 2 to leverage the tools available in the Canopy ecosystem and to promote our ongoing collaboration that will help grow our eLearning community.

APPENDIX A

Selection Rubric

Name		College	Course Delivery	Enrollment	Id/IT Contact
Selection Criteria	**Not Met** 0	**Good** 1	**Better** 2	**Best** 3	**Total Points**
Applicant provided all of the requested information.					
Using Echo360 Lecture/Personal Capture or Lecture Tools					
Using Kaltura Media					
Participating in Great Gateway Course Initiative					
Level of experience with instructional technologies					
	Not Met 0	**Rate 1-3**	**Rate 4-6**	**Rate 5-9**	
Articulated specific use cases for the selected equipment.					
Thorough explanation of how their equipment selection will improve learning outcomes and increase student engagement.					

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APPENDIX B

Cohort 1 Expenses

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1							"Backpack" Update			
2							Expenditures as of 5/12/15			
3	Fund	Cost Center	FA	Gran t	Int Order	Commit Item		Post Date	Text	Amount
4	D101045	3508000000	5	N/R	P35000	530308	Software Maintenance	04/29/2015	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS service agreement Beats pill	7.46
5						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	B&H PHOTO, 800-606-6969 Backpack Pilot	8,671.52
6						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	B&H PHOTO, 800-606-6969 Backpack Pilot	3,950.00
7						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	B&H PHOTO, 800-606-6969 Backpack Pilot	4,737.60
8						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	JOU JOURNEYED BackPack pilot	1,980.04
9						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	APL APPLE ONLINE STORE - Backpack pilot	990.00
10						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	JOU JOURNEYED - Backpack Pilot	1,751.70
11						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	AMAZON.COM-----BackPack Pilot	194.49
12						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	JOU JOURNEYED BackPack pilot	91.50
13						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	JOU JOURNEYED BackPack pilot	78.88
14						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/21/2014	APPLE STORE R028 -Backpack Pilot Ipads	2,034.00
15						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	11/24/2014	APPLE STORE R028 -Backpack Pilot Ipads	4,746.00
16						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	12/19/2014	AMAZON.COM Wacom Stylus backpack pilot	49.95
17						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	01/30/2015	AMAZON.COM-WACOM INTUOUS STYLUS/BACKPACK PILOT	58.00
18						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	04/29/2015	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS back pack project	104.15
19						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	04/29/2015	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS HDMI- BACKPACK PROJECT	734.98
20						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	04/29/2015	AMAZON.COM HTMI adapters Backpack project-- Foster	187.72
21						539001	NonC Comp<$5,000	04/29/2015	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS APPLE TV BACKPACK PROJECT	388.77
22						539002	NonC AV<$5,000	04/29/2015	AMAZON MKTPLACE PMTS Portable speaker Back pack	684.38
23						539300	NonC Software<100000	12/19/2014	TECHSMITH CORPORATION software backpack pilot	157.50
24						539300	NonC Software<100000	12/19/2014	TECHSMITH CORPORATION software backpack pilot	75.00
25						539300	NonC Software<100000	12/19/2014	TECHSMITH CORPORATION software backpack pilot	75.00
26						539300	NonC Software<100000	01/30/2015	TECHSMITH CORPORATION-SOFTWARE CAMTASIA/BACKPACK	75.00
27						830100	NT Fr Undesignated	07/15/2014	UCIT E-Learning Design Univ Provid Awrd (P Foster)	(21,329.00)
28	Total UCIT budget spent									10,494.64