

MISSOURI INNOVATION CAMPUS

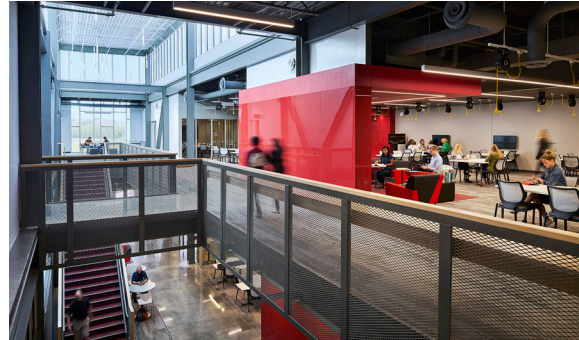


A collaboration between University of Central Missouri, Lees Summit School District, Metropolitan Community Colleges, and regional business partners

Gould Evans

KEY QUESTIONS

- How can inventive educational models reduce student debt and accelerate the time it takes to reach high earning potential?
- How can partnerships among businesses and institutions improve the relevancy of the educational experience and better equip graduates with job-ready skills, all the while helping them pay for college via paid internships throughout their schooling?
- How can business partners be more engaged in curriculum development, and the on-going re-evaluation and updating of the curriculum to ensure value and relevancy of students' investment in their education?
- How can education better equip students with key competencies that are in high demand among employers—skillsets that will help enhance their leadership ability and accelerate transitions into higher level positions within the workplace?
- How can the facility for such a unique program take lessons from innovative workplace design to achieve business agility via flexible design—agility in facilities planning, academic programming, and pedagogy?



The Missouri Innovation Campus (MIC) is a program serving grades 10-16 using unique partnering strategies to invent a new learning model and create the nation's most accelerated degree program. Agreements between a public school district, a state university, and a community college system offer a nimble set of academic alternatives to provide students with options for multiple accelerated pathways.

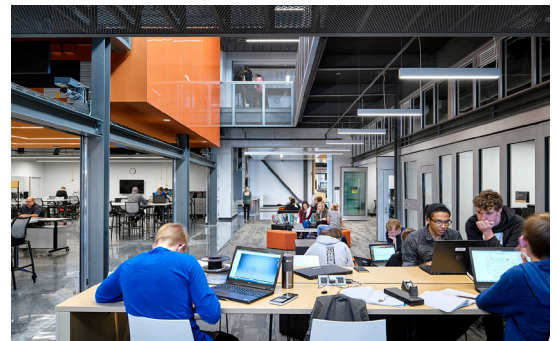
The MIC program began in 2011 to address the concerns of 21st century students who want to graduate earlier with less debt and higher job placement rates as compared with traditional "obsolete" college programs.

To fulfill these needs and address the questions above, the Missouri Innovation Campus's new facility features a collection of open learning environments ("flex studios") that optimize collaboration and professionalism akin to professional work environments.

The facility also offers open departmental quads made up of a collection of flexible and porous studios, labs, and ideation commons. In these quads, authentic work-like, cross-disciplinary behaviors are fostered by an environment that replicates the pace and diversity of creative workplaces.

The ideation commons serve as a third place within the school to support creative work and several modes of design thinking. Openings through the second floor create vertical connections between departments, further encouraging cross-disciplinary pursuits among students.

This innovative learning environment helps students to become self-directed and develop professional mindsets that will help them hit the ground running as they transition into full-time careers.



RESOURCES & MORE

- <https://www.ucmo.edu/mic/>
- <https://www.goulddevans.com/>

