Unknown and Underused, Sad! Making the Curriculum Lab Great Again

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Arcadia University’s Landman Library is collaborating with students and faculty in the School of Education to revitalize our Curriculum Lab. The project began in Fall 2016 with a partnership between the liaison librarian and ED 411: Designing Learning Environments, and continues today through an Advisory Group.

### Identifying Space and Collection Issues
- Students spent a class session in the Curriculum Lab using a See-Think-Wonder exercise to consider the space as it is and its potential.
- The librarian attended the following class to debrief and chart a path forward.
- The group identified easy wins we could accomplish quickly.
- Before making big changes, we needed a mission statement.

### Collaboratively Articulated Mission Statement
A word cloud exposed common themes in students’ individual visions for the Curriculum Lab, including creating separate areas to support both individual and collaborative learning.

### Easy Wins
- Remove unused furniture
- Replace large, immovable table with smaller, wheeled tables
- Improve identifying signage to be placed outside of the room
- Replace faded, outdated posters with new posters that are more relevant to curriculum and lesson planning

### ED 411 Students Present Their Ideas
- With the mission statement in mind, students drafted a blueprint for suggested changes to the Curriculum Lab.
- Students worked in small teams to gather the physical dimensions of the room, measuring the perimeters, shelf space, and linear feet of the current collection.
- Using oversized paper, students drew a scale model of what they would want the remodeled Curriculum Lab to look like.
- Students presented their Curriculum Lab work to the Dean of the School of Education and the Dean of the Library.

### Advisory Group and Future of the Project
- Since ED 411 is offered once a year in the Fall semester, the project was in danger of losing steam after the course ended.
- The librarian and the professor met to develop a strategy to maintain momentum.
- We decided to invite the ED 411 students, as well as other students and faculty in the School of Education, to form a Curriculum Lab Advisory Group (CLAG).
- CLAG meets periodically to plan next steps for the project, including adopting a collection development policy, forming partnerships with student groups such as the Education Club, and selecting new posters for the room.
- Google Groups, Forms, and Drive facilitate communication between CLAG meetings.
- Next steps in the project include weeding, reducing shelving, purchasing new K-12 textbooks and curriculum guides, reclassifying the children’s collection to improve browsing, and considering furniture and technology for the space.