Dr. TAWNYA MEANS
Director, Center for Teaching, Learning & Assessment

I think we'll be successful with this because we have some really fabulous instructors, some great experimenters who are willing to try new things, new strategies for teaching. This room is really designed to support that."
The ability to have my student teams work together is what really makes this classroom unique. It is students learning from each other, and that is an effective way to learn.
This class lets you build the soft skills you really need to develop professionally in communication and collaboration.
Does this scene look familiar? A lot has changed in education, but the conventional classroom structure has seemingly stood the test of time. Passively listening to lectures is not the optimal way to engage today’s students.
The amount of interaction between professors and students has increased, but oftentimes the transfer of information is a one-way flow from the professor. More opportunities to encourage participation and interaction among students are needed to advance learning.
Endeavors like the Active Learning Studio are the future of higher learning. Along with the philosophy of active learning and a drastic change to the physical structure of the room, we add the element of distance learning. Here, distance students can collaborate with their on-campus peers in real time, creating one of the nation’s most vibrant learning facilities.
The Active Learning Studio would not be possible without the generous support of our devoted alumni and friends and the contributions of our trusted partners:

Mickey Singer (BA 1969, MA 1970)

Herman Miller

The Learning Studio Research Project pilots new approaches to learning spaces – incorporating ongoing research to assess the impact of space design on teaching and learning. Herman Miller's commitment is to not only create an innovative learning space, but also to conduct collaborative research that yields results that can be acted upon.

We also want to thank the innovative professors who successfully took on the challenge of teaching in the Active Learning Studio:

Dr. T. Craig Tapley • Dr. Michelle Darnell • James Van Scotter • Brent Kitchens • Ruoxuan Wang • Zhi Li • Yinliang (Ricky) Tan