THE MASTER BUILDERS OF AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY MAKERSPACE

Jenny Wong-Welch & Keven Jeffery, San Diego State University

1. THE BACKGROUND

build IT @SDSU Library is a multidisciplinary makerspace run by librarians and student volunteers known as Master Builders.

The Master Builder Program started as an inexpensive staffing solution for the makerspace but has quickly evolved into a rewarding program.

2. THE INVESTMENT

You don’t need a $1 million. A relatively low financial input on technology can elicit student involvement and drive a program for DIY learning.

FUNDING
- Library Investment
- A Campus Grant
- Donations

STAFFING
- One 0.5 FTE Librarian
- Three 0.1 FTE Librarians

SPACE
- Staff Only Space
- Unused Classroom

EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE
- Found & Reappropriated
- Prototype Enterprise Emerging Technology

3. THE ACTION

CONSULTANT
- Build advisor for a Master Builder
- A Master Builder who speaks in support of the build IT

DESIGNER
- Librarians who serve as Master Builders
- Design solutions for use in build IT

INSTRUCTOR
- Instructors
- A Master Builder who instructs others through the use of technology

ENGINEER
- Engineering
- A Master Builder who constructs tools and equipment for build IT

4. THE BENEFITS

By starting small and showing value at each stage through student interest and engagement the library has become a destination for donors and campus outreach efforts to middle school students. Faculty have become aware of services through their students and have sought out partnerships. Students have a multidisciplinary space to collaborate, share and apply knowledge and build community.

5. BY THE NUMBERS

Master Builder Retention
- Recruited 70 students
- Student interest driving investment

Library - Direct
- SDSU Grant
- Donations
- Student Assistants

Student Interest
- 1 Semester
- 2 Semesters
- 3 Semesters

Student Interest Driving Investment
- Campus Investment

Student Interest
- $0.00
- $2,000.00
- $4,000.00
- $6,000.00
- $8,000.00
- $10,000.00
- $12,000.00
- $14,000.00

3D Print Requests Fulfilled
- 50
- 15
- 5

http://library.sdsu.edu/nmc