

The Maker Movement at Bucknell: A Plan for Developing, Launching, and Managing On-Campus MakerSpaces

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As the Maker Movement continues to grow nationally, more and more universities are opening makerspaces on campus to serve a student population drawn to creative expression through hands-on projects. Smaller, undergraduate-focused universities like Bucknell have constraints that make it difficult to launch and operate a single, large makerspace. As such, Bucknell has adopted a network-based approach by which multiple makerspaces across campus will be managed under a common set of access and safety policies. Our network includes a primary makerspace called the 7th St. Studio that is centrally located on campus, not affiliated with any department, and operated by student technicians, as well as other spaces throughout campus having unique capabilities. In this presentation we provide a general overview of Bucknell's makerspace network model, and discuss the motivation behind the development of on-campus makerspaces in general, and the structure of the network model in particular. We also discuss our main makerspace at the 7th St. Studio including a summary of the development process and timeline, the design of the space and its capabilities (e.g. tools and equipment), and a general overview of how the space will be operated.