



Contribution ID: 120

Type: Practice-oriented Oral Face-to-face presentation

Transforming a University Commons into a Self-Access Learning Center

Saturday 17 May 2025 14:15 (25 minutes)

TITLE

Transforming a University Commons into a Self-Access Learning Center

RELEVANT SIG

College and University Educators (CUE)

FORMAT

Practice-oriented Oral Face-to-face presentation (25 minutes, including Q&A)

Short English description

KEYWORDS

Self-Access Learning Center, Drop-in Chat, low-budget innovation

First-time presenter?

ABSTRACT

Faced with an underutilized university commons area, teachers within a university English language program examined how it could be transformed into a Self-Access Learning Center (SALC) tailored to meet their students' needs. With minimal financial resources, the teachers collaborated with students and consulted with universities that had established SALCs to create a space that was welcoming, accessible, and responsive to the dynamic needs of the student body. Key initiatives included presentations on social issues, an academic support program, and an English drop-in chat program. This presentation focuses on the drop-in chat, which was managed by a team of trained student staff members. Over the academic year, the program attracted approximately 500 participants and received positive feedback for fostering language development, building community, and promoting cultural understanding. The presentation will explore the transformation of the commons space in terms of design, programs, and student staff training. It will also explore student reflections

and discuss challenges and future directions. This presentation offers practical, budget-friendly strategies for educators and administrators looking to develop functional, student-centered spaces while maximizing student engagement and development.

Author: KIDD, Josh (Utsunomiya University)

Co-author: Mr BANWELL, Rory (Utsunomiya University)

Presenters: KIDD, Josh (Utsunomiya University); Mr BANWELL, Rory (Utsunomiya University)

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