

May 18th, 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

## Post-Baccalaureate Support in Blended Learning: Using Our Experiences as Recent Graduates to Contribute to Change in Higher Education

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Criss Guy, Miriam Tinberg, Esther Chiang, Jancy Munguia, and Elizabeth Reilly, "Post-Baccalaureate Support in Blended Learning: Using Our Experiences as Recent Graduates to Contribute to Change in Higher Education" (May 18, 2016). *Blended Learning in the Liberal Arts Conference*. Paper 3.

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# A Post-Baccalaureate Model for Supporting Blended Learning in the Liberal Arts

Esther Chiang, Criss Guy, Jancy Munguia, Elizabeth Reilly, Miriam Tinberg

# Bryn Mawr College's Educational Technology Services

- Moved from Provost Office to Library & Information Technology Services (LITS) August 2015
- Office of 15 people to a department of 75 people
- Strategic partnership between faculty, staff, and students



# Five Colleges Inc structure



Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, University of Massachusetts Amherst

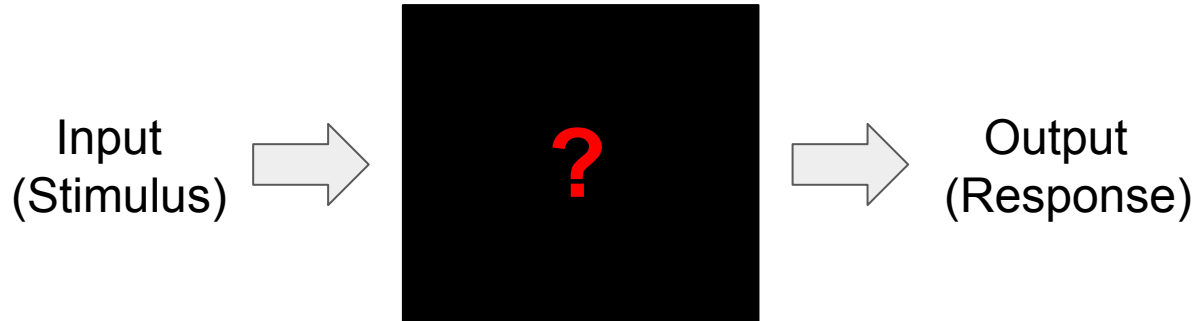
“Five Colleges, Incorporated promotes and administers long-term forms of cooperation that benefit faculty and staff members and students. These include:

1. Shared use of educational and cultural resources and facilities, including a joint automated library system, open cross registration, and open theater auditions;
2. Joint departments and programs;
3. Inter-campus transportation”

Grants: Five College Blended Learning Initiative and the Innovative Language Teaching grant

# Consumer to Creator: Post-Bac Experience

“Students...are referred to as ‘digital natives’ because they were raised on technology from a very young age. But their relationship has been largely passive: switch on the device and use it.”



Selingo, Jeffrey J. “Here are the five critical skills that every college graduate should have”. April 18, 2016 *Washington Post* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/04/18/here-are-the-five-critical-skills-every-new-college-graduate-should-have/>

# Consumer to Creator: Post-Bac Experience

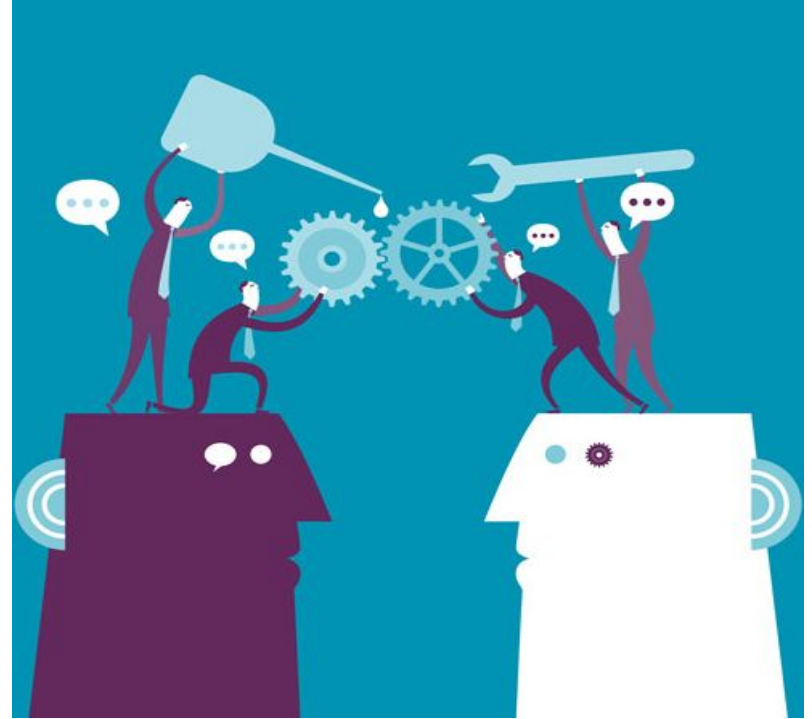
“Being digitally aware [is] about moving from a passive relationship with technology to a more active one — especially in understanding the how and why behind machines, not just the what.”



Selingo, Jeffrey J. “Here are the five critical skills that every college graduate should have”. April 18, 2016 *Washington Post* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/04/18/here-are-the-five-critical-skills-every-new-college-graduate-should-have/>

# Making Connections

- Pre-established networks at our schools
- A foot in each door
- Outreach and building bridges



# Jack of all trades



- The Tech Support
- The Content Design
- The Project Management
- The Video Editing
- The Collaborator



# Challenges and Silver Linings

- Ambiguity of the Position
  - What's your place in the conversation?
  - Are you a student?
- Perception of accessibility to technology
- Understanding the inner workings of Higher Education
- Leadership, Innovation, and Creativity



# Inspired Future

- Skills learned in this position
  - Project Management
  - Collaboration
  - Delegation
  - Technical skills
- Skills and experiences inform our futures
- Sustainability

# Some Takeaways

- If your department or your institution are hiring Post-Baccs be sure to...
  - Provide a solid mentoring structure
  - Connect them with other partner institution Post-Baccs
  - Include paid time for professional development
  - Prepare for the inevitable challenges that the transition from recent grad to staff will bring