Lightning Symposium: Programs for the New Design Center at Illinois

APRIL 29, 2016
iHotel | 8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Proposal Submission Deadline: April 1, 2016
The new Design Center at Illinois will channel our students’ outstanding talents to develop expertise, passion, and creativity toward issues and lives of consequence. Students from across campus and all fields of study will explore ideas and master skills through action—immersing, designing, making, doing.

The Design Center will equip students with new and exceptional sets of skills, fostered by a culture of multi- and trans-disciplinary education and student-led problem discovery and problem solving.

The Design Center will be headquartered in a new iconic facility, which will break ground soon, featuring 40,000 square feet of program space. The facility will serve as the central station and headquarters for a campus-wide cyber-physical network. The network will foster collaboration and learning across disciplines, realities, and cultures. The Design Center will embody our institutional commitment to world-class education and discovery with societal purpose and relevance, as we engage the world—to act, to lead, to change.

The Design Center will serve as a hub that inspires our campus community to discuss, question, dream, invent, create, and innovate. The Center is envisioned to convene people, immerse them in understanding meaningful challenges for which they design solutions, and connect them to a network of campus, community, and global resources.

A number of town hall meetings have already been convened to solicit campus input about the facility itself. At this stage, we are launching lightning symposia to engage all campus stakeholders in discussions about, and ensure their input toward, programming for the Design Center.

An initial programming framework outlined a very ambitious, inclusive, and diverse vision for programs of study, certificates, courses, modules, and other activities. The symposia will showcase current, as well as plans for future, work and ideas of Illinois students, faculty, and research groups in creative approaches to design-based learning, teaching, problem-solving, ideation, and innovation. The symposia will help define our shared ambitions for the Design Center as it is developed and launched.

This first symposium will focus on Illinois faculty, staff, and research groups. It will be held at the iHotel on April 29th; 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM. [Plans for student forums are in progress.]

The symposium will feature five-minute presentations or posters on programs, courses, modules, and activities that help realize the center’s core mission and translate its values into innovative, cutting-edge programs and courses of study and activities.

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**IDEAS WANTED**

Topics may include, but are not restricted to:

- Teaching and learning through designing, prototyping, building, and testing with social, commercial, and/or cultural purposes.
- Free standing courses, certificates, as well as integrated courses of study that address all facets of design, understood from various disciplinary or cross-disciplinary lenses.
- Fostering design thinking through problem framing, research, analytical reasoning, conceptualization, prototyping, and/or communication.
- Extending technological, social, and cultural communication and innovation through techniques and tools like virtual reality and telepresence.
- Creating opportunities for autonomous and on-demand learning, self-directed projects, volunteering and service projects, and other activities.
- Creating spaces where ideas and expertise are freely shared.
- Supporting student business and social entrepreneurship, and social and commercial ventures.

**Call for Proposals**

Individual and team submissions by faculty and staff are welcome. To propose a five-minute session or poster, please submit your 300-word description at: go.illinois.edu/dc_symposium

**The deadline for proposal submission is April 1, 2016 by 5:00 P.M. (CST).**

If you have questions, please contact us at designcenter@illinois.edu

On behalf of the Lightning Symposium Program Committee:

Andreas C. Cangellaris, Engineering
Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, Education
Madhu Viswanathan, Business