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Yes You Can! Encourage Technology innovation by Building a Community of Support

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Yes you can! Encourage technology innovation by building a community of support

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Abstract

Health Science education faculty are redesigning curricula to meet the learning needs of current and future students. During this process, faculty adjust their teaching strategies, and work to increase their own educational technology skills. The evolving demands of a health care educator underscores the need to nurture their technology skills development. The method UNMC chose to use was to develop an interprofessional community of support that is designed to strengthen an innovative culture, foster informal peer review and peer mentoring, encourage scholarship opportunities, and to offer collaborations with educators who share an interest in using technology in education. The community identified critical supports for the adoption of technology innovation and this poster will illustrate methods used to create, grow, and sustain the community of support.

Creating the Community

- Two faculty members volunteered to create the community and plan initial programming
- First call for members emailed to all faculty and instructional staff
- Meetings scheduled once a month, held in the library and other campus locations that use educational technology
- Faculty Development supplied financial support for lunch, and helped spread the word
- Requested volunteer speakers to present their successes and challenges
- Meeting topics alternated between hands-on sessions and presentations

Now: taking us into the future…
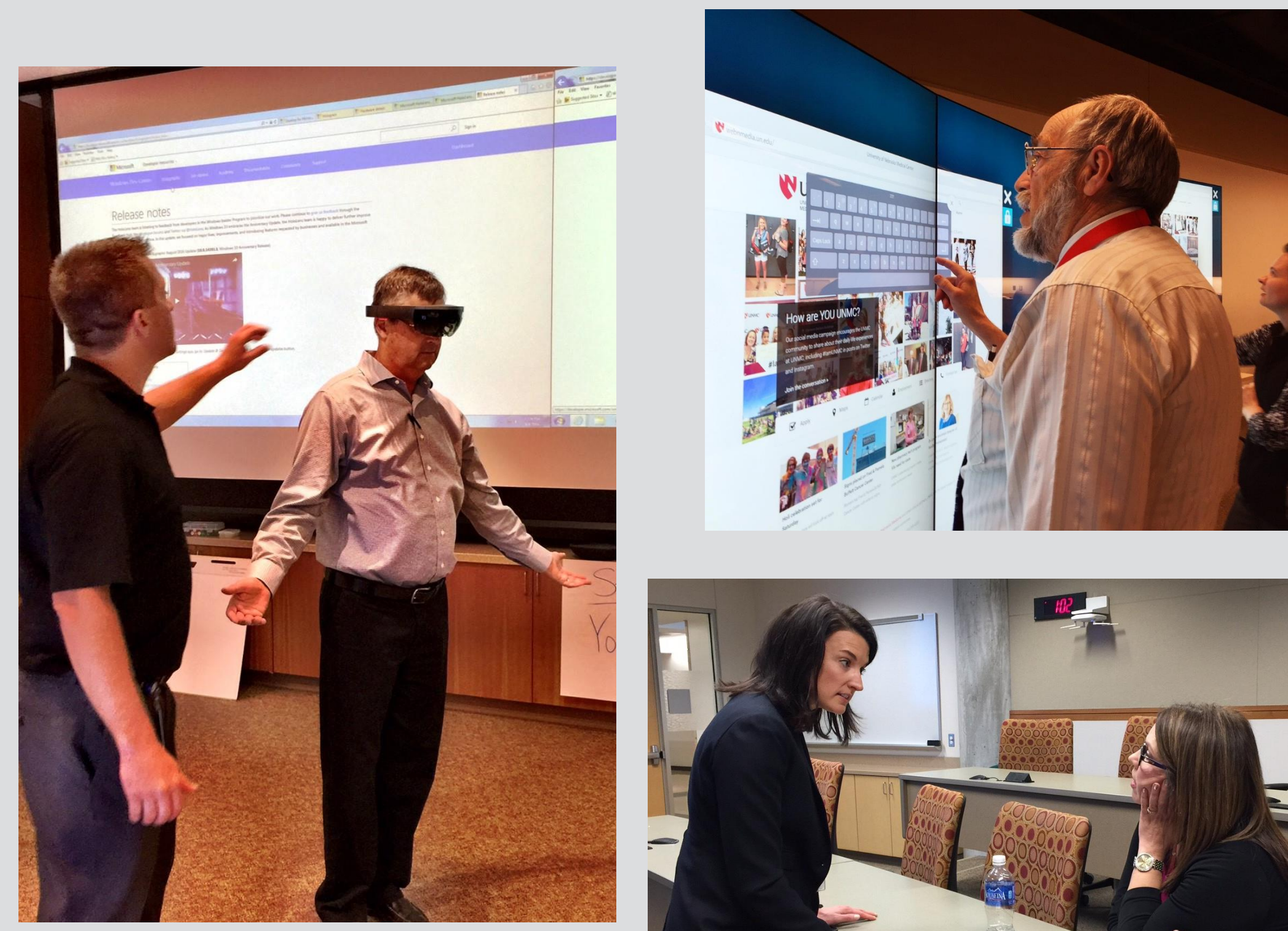
Community Began Nov 2013 → Community leadership changes & expands Jan 2015 → Evolved into Special Interest Group in new Interprofessional Academy of Educators 2016

Growing the Community

- Community leadership changed and expanded to include faculty and staff members
- Increased campus involvement with educational technology led to timely presentation and hands-on topics, keeping members interested and engaged
- Strengthened partnership with Faculty Development led to increased communication with all campuses about the community
- Explored interest in setting up distance communities on sister campuses

Sustaining the Community

- Partner with larger entities in the organization
- Be conscious of the need for succession planning
- Continue to offer timely topics and activities
- Deliver meetings real-time via distance technology to sister campuses
- Connect with learning events: pedagogy conference, OLC, blended learning presentations

Lessons Learned

- Community leadership needs to be continuously developed and recruited
- Build in flexibility around meeting times, topics, activities, locations -community members participate based on their learning needs and available time
- Be open to opportunities offered through changes and growth in the community and the overall organization

Acknowledgments