

SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCING 3D PRINTING INTO YOUR SCHOOL

FIND YOUR CHAMPION(S)

Find the person(s) who will help you drive interest and engagement. Your champions will be naturally interested in new technology such as 3D printing. They will openly and passionately talk about the technology with colleagues and support them when they have questions.

TRAIN YOUR CHAMPION(S)

To support your champion(s) you need to provide them with education specific 3D printing training. Find a local trainer that can help you train your champions and work with you and them to train others and ensure successful adoption.

BUILD A RESOURCE LIBRARY

Before officially launching, make sure you have a library of resources prepared to support students and other faculty. Check out MyStemKits.com and Google Group K12 Fablabs for resources to support your school.

LAUNCH

When you officially launch 3D printing use the popular communication channels in your school or university to raise awareness and promote training sessions. Emails, posters, use of TV screens, newsletters and public address announcements can be considered.

TRAIN YOUR USERS

When you have completed steps 1 through to 4 you are ready to train students and other staff. Divide them into small groups of between 5 to 10 people per printer and conduct workshops to walk them through using your new 3D printing solution. Use your champions to help run the workshops and as ongoing "go to" help for students.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

If you have just 1 or 2 teachers that understand 3D printing then start small with 1 or 2 printers to make it manageable. Your 3D printer(s) will have periods when they are at maximum capacity and other times when they are sitting idle. Once your 3D printers are in use, utilize your 3D print management software to monitor and manage usage and communicate quiet times to improve consistency and reduce "wait" times.

SHOWCASE

To sustain use and encourage students and teachers to develop their skills, showcase your best projects to celebrate success and share ideas.

EXPANSION PLAN

Successful adoption will naturally lead to an increase in demand for 3D printing in your school or university. Using your 3D print management software's reports, you can calculate the required number of printers you will need as more faculty adopt 3D printing as part of their curriculum and more students are brought into 3D printing. As a guide work to 10/15 printers per 500 students.

