



Newsletter Summer 2012 Bridge to Success (B2S) offers open, free content to help students cross the barrier to gaining the skills to learn, providing "bridging" content in mathematics and learning to learn. Thanks to a Next Generation Learning Challenges grant, the project began in April 2011 and has now successfully published all its content online as free Open Educational Resources (OER): <http://labspace.open.ac.uk/b2s>

Time Flies...

Bridge to Success is pleased to announce that it is now half-way through its three month, no-cost extension to gather data from completing pilots and make technical improvements to the LabSpace platform. Following feedback from instructors, students and independent pedagogical reviews of *Succeed with Math* (SWiM) and *Learning to Learn* (L2L), improvements to the course materials will also take place from July to September 2012.

Research and final project reports will also be completed during this period, with a particular emphasis on preparing publishable outputs.

Project team members have also been preparing to submit a proposal for future funding, focused on scaling up the project, to EDUCAUSE at the end of August 2012.



Picture credit: Natalie Eggleston
The UK Learning to Learn Team at July's Kick-off Meeting

Researching OER

Good news for B2S as The Open University received funding from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to provide the OER Research Hub. Starting in September 2012, and running for 2 years, the [OER Research Hub](#) project will focus research around the question "What is the impact of OER on learning and teaching practices?" and identify the particular influence of openness. With an international focus the OER Research Hub will work in collaboration with projects across four education sectors: K12, college, higher education and informal learning. B2S will be a key collaborator for the college sector element of the project. By evaluating and sharing methods and results, the project will establish instruments and methods for researching the impact on openness on learning and best practice for OER.

Pilot Update

In the last newsletter we reported that post-pilot institutions are choosing to strategically integrate B2S materials into their college curricula. B2S is pleased to announce that the Saylor Foundation, who provide OER in a variety of subjects, will be integrating SWiM and L2L into their current curriculum of Algebra and General Education.

In addition to many piloting institutions adopting a rolling enrolment schedule for use of B2S materials, the project is delighted to have completed negotiations with California State University at Northridge, who will be conducting our first mass pilot of L2L as part of their Early Start Initiative. An estimated 1500 students will use B2S materials during late summer. Scaling the project and engaging with larger numbers of students is central to B2S's strategic plan for its next phase of development.

B2S materials continue to receive positive feedback from instructors and students. At Frederick Community College, Pei

Taverner, a mathematics instructor currently using SWiM, is looking toward continuing its use in the future. As Pei reports: "Through the pilot this summer I am seeing students utilize the math content to build their skills [and] reduce their anxiety with mathematics."

At Anne Arundel Community College, students who struggle to achieve passing grades at developmental mathematics are being given a helping hand via SWiM. As one student, who had been away from formal education for a number of years, writes: "When you multiply two negatives they become positive... priceless!! I forgot that since the 80s!! Loving the course and thank you for inviting me to be a part!!"

B2S Exceeds its Targets

By August 2012 the project reached 120% of the goal of pilot institution involvement and has reached 230% of the goal of 750 pilot participants.

As of early August 2012 a total of 3050 unique users had viewed Succeed with Math and 520 had registered. Meanwhile registered user numbers increased to 601 for the B2S course Learning to Learn. A total of 5056 unique visitors have viewed the B2S materials which is 84% of our original target of 6000 people!



News Round-Up!



More independent acclaim for B2S as we received two awards in the Center for Digital Education's 2012 *Best of the Web Awards*. One of two projects to win the *Community College Digital Application/Project* category, B2S was also given an *Honorable Mention* in the *Community College Website* category. The project has also, along with Open Culture and Tufts OCW, been nominated for an Education-Portal.com People's Choice Award in the *Most Interactive Resource* category.

Meanwhile, in the UK B2S was entered as The Open University's *Widening Participation Initiative* submission for the Times Higher Education Awards 2012. News on whether the project reaches the shortlist should be available in September. The project also submitted a video to the "Why Open Education matters" video contest which you can view via the [B2S](#) and [OER at the OU](#) website. The project team has also created a video giving a whistle-stop tour of the content and how it works—an essential aid for anyone who is thinking of using B2S OER but wants a quick view of what it's all about. You can view this video via the [B2S](#) and [OER at the OU](#) websites.

Members of the Bridge to Success team will be speaking at OpenEd 2012 *Beyond Content* in Vancouver during October. Earlier in the summer David Lascu (US Project Manager) outlined the B2S concept at the 4th Annual Conference on *Acceleration in Developmental Education*.

Finally... Great news for the project as Principle Investigator, Patrick McAndrew, received formal recognition for his continuing work in open education during April 2012. Patrick was promoted to Professor of Open Education at the Open University. UMUC's John Beyers was recently awarded the *University System of Maryland Faculty Fellowship for the Developmental Mathematics Redesign Initiative* from a large group of finalists across the state... Congratulations, John and Patrick!



Top: John Beyers; Bottom: Patrick McAndrew



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