The University of Minnesota Duluth
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**COIL Initiative Begins 2016**
UMD is a regional university with about 11,000 students. A concerted initiative to support COIL development on UMD's campus began in 2016. Early efforts drew on faculty interest and local partnerships with community organizations working on the New Steps International Project between Duluth and Petrozavodsk, Russia (newstepsinternational.org). Early developments were supported by those community partners and by individual faculty through an internal grant.

Starting in 2016, funding was provided for one faculty member to act as a coordinator for COIL activity on campus. Several other factors helped to demonstrate the value of COIL for UMD, including: support from internationalization working groups on campus, inclusion in a larger project run by the SUNY COIL Center, support from Chief International Officers and the International Programs & Services Office, interest in telecollaboration among language faculty, support from campus Educational Technologists and other IT staff, support from UMD's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and the willingness of partners at the system level to share expertise across University of Minnesota campuses, especially at the Center for Educational Innovation and the Global Programs & Strategy Alliance.

**Implementation of Support for COIL Projects**
While initially quite limited in scope, growing interest across a wide variety of stakeholders has helped UMD develop infrastructure for COIL projects, including:
- $1500 funding set aside to support a new COIL coordinator for each semester. COIL coordinators are expected to actively pursue their own COIL project, to play a lead role in the meetings of UMD's COIL Community of Practice and to act as the point person for UMD's COIL activity.
- The UMD Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning organizes a Community of Practice for COIL by calling meetings and working with the COIL coordinator. The Center also reviews applications for the COIL coordinator.
- The Office of International Programs & Services maintains the COIL website, and contributes to partnership forming initiatives.
- Campus IT staff provides support through COIL consultations by Educational Technologists and support in the use of active learning classrooms.
- The UMN System-wide COIL Advisory Team coordinates COIL activities across campuses by sharing Community of Practice sessions and announcing new opportunities. Recently, the system advisory group organized a COIL Cohort Program for spring 2018, described below. Without the benefit of the system-wide group, the individual campuses would not have enough resources to offer a COIL Cohort Program on their own.

While many faculty have begun COIL projects and pursued international learning partnerships, the number of COIL modules that have been implemented on a per semester basis on UMD's campus remains small (1-2). The cohort program being implemented in spring 2018 should help our campus build on the results of past successes.

**Positive Outcomes and Challenges**
Some of the main drivers of support from the administration have been the perceived benefit for international strategic partnership development and the internationalization of the curriculum. COIL projects have presented faculty and students with opportunities to engage global challenges, showcasing the expertise of local partners on a global stage.

Going forward, UMD's focus will be on removing barriers and expanding impact. Faculty continue to struggle to find international partners well-suited to their course objectives. The time spent on these projects often amounts to a significant investment, and there is concern that without cohesive development efforts, our campus may find it difficult to significantly expand COIL offerings. We are hopeful, especially based on recent investment in funding for participants in the COIL Cohort Program, that we will continue to increase access to international collaborative experiences. It will also be important that we work more closely with International Programs & Services to build out institutional partnerships that can reliably provide opportunities for co-development projects, while ensuring that partnership development activities are guided by the benefit to students that COIL activities offer. While COIL coordinators take on several responsibilities, dedicated staff time will be essential to supporting sustainable long-term expansion of COIL at UMD.

**COIL Cohort Program**
To provide support and help practitioners overcome persistent barriers, COILing faculty at UMD are working with stakeholders across the system to develop a spring 2018 COIL Cohort Program. For this pilot, five to seven participants are asked to locate international partners prior to joining the cohort. International Programs & Services has been working with strategic partnership institutions to help identify potential COIL partners as well. We have organized promising curriculum by working with system partners and by relying on training materials developed by some of those partners, such as the COIL Workbook (https://tinyurl.com/coilworkbook), developed at the College of Education and Human Development at the UMN Twin Cities campus.  The program will consist of three online sessions shared via videoconference across campuses and an end-of-the-semester retreat.