

THE BLENDED CAMPUS

...is the sustainable campus

Covid-19 has put many colleges at a crossroads. Crucial questions about survival and sustainability loom large. Is there a way forward that reimagines the campus as a lean but robust core of the institution and its community, blending the soul of physical place and the muscle of digital interface into a vibrant hub?

The Blended Campus brings together and activates -

1. Onsite + Online:

Interacting in person, in place and from anywhere...

2. Life Skills + Job Skills:

Teaching to learn, think, create, collaborate...

3. Social Values + Social Life:

Advancing justice, ecosystem, community, friendships...

4. Town + Gown:

Partnering space, resources, real estate, people...

A blended campus is a community

resource. It breaks traditional barriers between town and gown. It invites a diverse community of students, faculty, staff and neighboring government/business leaders and residents to exchanges and creations in education, culture, and commerce. While many students currently engage with the surrounding communities, it is time to think farther beyond the quad, to reimagine the confluences on campus and with surrounding communities in broader ways to activate learning, earning, and values. The Hub at Davidson College is an example where entrepreneurs engage students in a new type of project-based learning.

A blended campus is smart with resources.

It gets the most out of a prime asset pre-existing campus and community real estate. As remote access frees up physical space, there is an emerging opportunity to identify and assess underutilized, underwhelming and unneeded spaces. The next step is to leverage existing buildings and grounds to do more and work better for various uses and users. By adaptively designing those places to be more visible, flexible, interconnected and healthy, they become more inviting, collaborative and energetic ...and consume less space and energy. Think past reconfiguring lecture halls to leveraging the power of place to inspire uplifting change and build sustainable communities.

A blended campus is an interdisciplinary place of learning and doing. It warrants a silo-breaking, design-thinking process that integrates interdisciplinary talents in architecture, education, design, engineering, real estate, technology, and health to form new, holistic, sustainable plans.

A blended campus is not a mass-produced product. It is made-to-order from what's in mind and on hand. We have the team to work with colleges and communities to diagnose and plan the Blended Campus that is needed now and for the future.