



# C-LAB 2013

## *Report of the 2013 meeting of the NMC Campus Leaders Advisory Board*

Over February 21-22, the NMC Campus Leaders Advisory Board (C-LAB) convened in Austin, Texas, to engage in dialog around the focus areas of the NMC for 2013. Members of the C-LAB are the official liaisons between their institutions and the NMC staff. Their work, needs, and ideas help guide and define the NMC's goals and projects.

The annual meeting opened with a reflection of the NMC's activities and accomplishments in 2012 ([go.nmc.org/2012-infographic](http://go.nmc.org/2012-infographic)). The scope of influence of the NMC grew significantly in 2012, with more content platforms than ever to engage people wherever they choose to be and disseminate the work of the NMC. iTunes U, NMC.org, social media channels, two apps, and a number of other outlets continue to reach more people. Special events, including the Summer Conference and the Horizon Project retreat also helped convene important people around big ideas throughout the year.

The biggest news at the meeting this year was the imminent release of the NMC's new global online community, the NMC Commons ([commons.nmc.org](http://commons.nmc.org)), designed to facilitate collaboration between members, provide them with opportunities to share news, events, and jobs, and deliver curated, relevant content. C-LAB participants explored the NMC Commons, added new content, and generally underscored its value to them and to the NMC Community.

Also announced in Austin was the NMC's newest outreach program, the NMC K-12 Ambassadors — a global search for K-12 education professionals committed to the vision and mission of the NMC. The goal is to harness the energy and talent of this group of K-12 educators within the NMC community and to learn from each other and formulate common strategies.

New discussions quickly emerged at the meeting around how the NMC Commons and initiatives like the NMC K-12 Ambassador Program could be leveraged to help members capitalize on what many saw as a sea change in the ways we are beginning to think about the role of technology and the trends and challenges it encompasses. A great many ideas were shared, both strategies that individual campuses were considering as well as potential initiatives that the NMC may undertake.

As the dialog around what the NMC is working on and thinking about unfolded, it was clear that the C-LAB group is very enthusiastic about the range of projects the NMC is doing; the atmosphere was full of new energy and new ideas as well, and a comprehensive effort was made to capture, and ultimately rank them. From an initial list of ideas generated over the day at the 2013 meeting, four found broad agreement and from them, an action agenda for the year ahead was crafted that will ensure the NMC continues to collectively advance a global agenda around the adoption of new technologies, actively encourages connections between members, and facilitates real and positive change in educational practice on member campuses.

What became increasingly apparent as the processes of the day unfolded was that there was much agreement among the participants. Working groups had independently formulated many of the same ideas, and, in some cases, even proposed identical initiatives. When all the votes were finally cast, four

clear and positive new themes emerged at the top of the list, each an important way to keep the work of the NMC relevant to members and member campuses.

- **Horizon Project-Themed Workshops.** As the NMC Horizon Project is the most visible work of the NMC, the 2013 C-LAB proposed more events that share the research of the Horizon Project while giving attendees practical ideas for implementing new technologies, executing on important trends, and surmounting ongoing challenges. The NMC Summer Conference was cited as a potential venue for these workshops.
- **More Student Voices.** A consensus emerged at the meeting that there is a need for the NMC to better incorporate students — especially graduate students — in the community. The NMC has long been an organization devoted to informing educators, administrators, policy-makers, and other leaders about impactful technologies, trends, and challenges, but the element of the student voice has not been included enough. Inviting students to participate in our face-to-face events, creating self-directed learning programs for them, and even giving out small grants will better weave them in.
- **Speed Learning.** The NMC should facilitate quick sessions at its gatherings where participants can ask each other questions, pitch their projects to each other, and learn from each other in a fun, fast-paced way — based on part of the notion of speed dating.
- **Institutional Profiles.** The C-LAB participants were enthusiastic about features in the NMC Commons that enable individuals to locate people with expertise in specific education areas via their profiles. They agreed they would like to apply this search functionality at the institutional level and be able to use the NMC Commons to easily discover other universities working on similar initiatives as their own, based on expanded university profiles that contain all the known projects from NMC members.

The discussions and subsequent consensus that emerged at the C-LAB gathering highlighted powerfully what people working on campuses and what institutions and organizations need to be successful and remain ahead of the curve — more learning experiences, more ways to connect with each other, more ways to find and share work, and more opportunities to work with students.

## Next Steps

The connective thread that ties together all the ideas set forth above is the belief that education is in need of disruption, and that to make that happen, we need people with the passion to persevere and push new ideas to the forefront. At its core, the NMC is a community based on a shared passion — that much was clear in Austin.

Our values of creativity and imagination, play and experimentation, and ultimately transformation were inherent in both the discussions and outcomes. The strategies identified in Austin will ensure that the individuals and institutions that comprise the NMC remain at the center of our initiatives and projects, and that the NMC continues to be the most dynamic, capable, and influential organization of its kind.

