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### Tech Bar Studio: Enhancing Creativity

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# Tech Bar Studio: Enhancing Creativity Nationally



Meredith Manke

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## What is the Tech Bar Studio?

The Tech Bar Studio is a flexible multipurpose studio located in the Pennings Activity Center to support the creation of audio / visual teaching resources. The studio includes four stations allowing for students and staff to create podcasts, record screencasts, explore the world of virtual reality, and produce high-quality content using e-glass and other studio equipment. The equipment located in the studio can also be checked-out making it easily accessible anywhere on campus. If one is unfamiliar with the technology in the studio, appointments can be set up with a tech bar consultant to help.



## The Tech Bar Studio

The Studio has been featured on Educause Connect which is an information technology website. Educause Connect creates a collaboration platform for information technologists to talk about educational space ideas. San Diego State University invited St. Norbert College to feature the studio in the Educause 2021 annual conference of innovative learning spaces. Many universities commented on the idea of creating a technology studio, especially mid-pandemic, and are going to incorporate these ideas into their campus.



## Moving Forward

The outlook for the studio is to continue to improve, meaning that new and innovative equipment and technology are going to be added as well as increasing the number of appointments.

As this is the first year of a two-year research fellowship, there is a lot of planning for year two. In terms of the studio, ITS is currently searching to find a more accessible and permanent location since the studio is not handicap friendly nor stable in terms of temperature, which can affect the equipment.

Lastly, I've been exploring a new technology product called AwesomeTable ([awesome-table.com](https://awesome-table.com)) to display all classroom data in a visual format, making it easier for others to see what resources and rooms are available on campus. This is a system that was developed by St. Joseph's University that I've been working on modifying for our own use. More to come next year!



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## How the Studio is Used Today

Since the Tech Bar Studio was completed and open to students in November 2021, there have been 49 appointments. Of these appointments, the majority have been of podcasts and screencasts used for class. Others have been borrowing equipment and lighting to create high-quality videos in science labs to provide student tutorials. A feedback survey is sent after every appointment asking about the accessibility and quality of the studio; the average rating is a 4.9/5.



## What is FLEXspace?

FLEXspace is a platform where universities across the United States can showcase learning spaces for others to take inspiration from.

## FLEXspace at St. Norbert College

Completed 10/26/2021, the Tech Bar Studio was featured and verified on the FLEXspace homepage. The perks of being verified on the website are that the studio is promoted as a “thought starter/concept” implying that other universities will look at the studio and implement the idea on their campus. In other terms, the studio is actively advertised to universities across the United States.