

## Digital Badges at McMaster

### What we've done.

Over the last year, MIETL has first worked with D2L to integrate a badging server, then adopted a D2L built tool to issue digital badges. In our initial pilot we solicited several co-curricular groups (Housing, MacServe in Student Success, MCYU and MIETL's Educational Technology team) to design and issue badges.

In small, controlled courses on Avenue to Learn, digital badges were configured for testing and issuing. Sean Beaudette in Student Housing has issued a badge to document housing leaders to 20 participants this year – and will be expanding the number of badges issued and will be integrating PebblePad and badging going forward.

Beth Levinson has issued a badge for participation in MCYU to 40 students, and will be expanding to issue badges for skills next year.

MacServe was planning to issue badges for the MacServe program, but decided to delay issuing badges for another academic year.

MIETL has developed, but not issued, badges for Avenue to Learn skills for faculty who have completed Avenue to Learn workshops in the last three years and shown some evidence of learning. Those badges will be issued over the summer.

The net result of these pilot projects has been excellent and through no promotion interest from other campus partners has been shown and developed into badging programs for Graduate Studies and the Medical Radiation Sciences program.

The workshop developed for badging at McMaster has been delivered internally twice, and will be delivered at D2L's international conference in Washington DC this summer. The workshop will be offered over the summer in structured sessions.

### Where we're going.

Next year, the hope is to expand the badging program to as many of the co-curricular groups as possible, hoping to capture more of what a student experiences on campus. We have identified MSU clubs as a primary group that could be interested in digital badges as well as continuing our partnership with Student Success.

There are plans in place to develop a website that will allow students to issue other students a digital badge. This website solves the problem that students have no way

to recognize peers that help them with their academic lives at McMaster. The student would login, select the badge (as an example, “research assistance”) and the person it should be issued to, and that will generate a badge issued to the person. The badge will contain metadata that describes the reason the badge was issued. Work on this website will take place over the summer and we anticipate that it will be in place for piloting in September.

## Budget

Description of Cost	Proposed	Spent
Installation of badging server (7.5 hours)	\$239.00	\$239.00
Programming of API connection between badging server and Avenue to Learn (25 hours)	\$750.00	\$750.00
Development of training for students, staff and faculty (20 hours)	\$600.00	\$600.00
Publicity (posters, handouts, website deployment)	\$320.00	\$320.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1909.00</b>	<b>\$1909.00</b>

All of the funds were disbursed and additional costs absorbed through MIETL. The installation of the server technology took more than 15 hours to install rather than the 7.5 expected hours.