*IT Leadership Launchpad Series:*
*Transforming Real-World Challenges into Triumphs*

# Agility Bootcamp: Fostering Innovation in Times of Change

**October 29, 2024**

Host: Deb Kidwell, Director of Technology Initiatives, MHEC

Any resources available will be posted on the MHEC website post-event.

Raise your hand, let's make this interactive.

OR submit your questions in the chat.

Please complete our survey.

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# Learn More – MHEC Technologies Community

- The Technologies Community engages IT innovators and specialists from services areas for technology, academia, students, and administration. The community provides strategic guidance to MHEC on technology-related topics in support of the mission of higher education institutions and states in the Midwest.
- Navigate to: https://www.mhec.org/tech-community
- Contact Deb Kidwell to get involved: debk@mhec.org

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# *Conveying the Value of Information Technology*

- A peer guide to IT governance, highlighting IT's strategic role in institutional success
- Special thanks:
  - **Dirk Huggett**
    Assistant CIO, Administration
    North Dakota University System
  - **John Rathje**
    Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
    Kent State University

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# Facilitator

**Michelle Rakoczy**
*Associate Director*
*Infrastructure and Operations*
University of North Dakota

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# What We'll Accomplish Today: Adaptability, Collaboration, & Creativity in IT

- **Objective:** Explore how IT departments can leverage adaptability, collaboration, and creativity to thrive in a dynamic higher education landscape.
- **Today's Focus:**
  - **Understand the Core Principle:** Discuss the definition and importance of adaptability, collaboration, and creativity in the context of IT in higher education https://bit.ly/ValueProplTHigherEd
  - **Explore Real-World Challenges:** Analyze scenarios inspired by the sources, including cybersecurity threats, legacy system transitions, and funding opportunities.
  - **Generate Creative Solutions:** Brainstorm and share innovative approaches to the challenges presented in the scenarios.
  - **Identify Actionable Takeaways:** Determine how to apply the principles of adaptability, collaboration, and creativity to your own work and institutional context.
- **Discussion Ground Rules:**
  - Respectful dialogue and open sharing of ideas.
  - Active listening and engagement from all participants.
  - A willingness to challenge assumptions and consider diverse perspectives.

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***By embracing adaptability, encouraging collaboration, and unleashing creativity, IT leaders can innovate, solve problems, and thrive in an ever-changing world.***

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# Adaptability

How can IT departments become more adaptable to the ever-changing technological landscape in higher education?

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# Collaboration

How can IT departments better collaborate with other departments on campus to address student needs and achieve institutional goals?

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# Creativity

How can IT departments encourage a culture of creativity and innovation?

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# Paper Scenario

The "Administrative Challenge”:  DBA Retiring

- How can adaptability, collaboration, and creativity be used to address a staffing shortage?

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# Scenario: The Cybersecurity Threat

**Situation:** A new cybersecurity threat emerges, targeting higher education institutions. The threat is sophisticated and rapidly evolving, and there is limited information available about how to mitigate it. Your team discovers that a critical system has a previously unknown vulnerability, and there is no patch available yet.

- **Discussion:**
  - Who are the essential collaborators outside the institution to involve in addressing this threat?

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# Scenario: The Legacy System

**Situation:** A critical software system used by the institution for many years is reaching the end of its life. The vendor is discontinuing support, and upgrading to a new system will require significant changes to workflows, data migration, and user training.

**Discussion:**

- How can the IT department collaborate with users across campus to ensure a smooth transition and minimize disruption?

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# Scenario: The Funding Opportunity

- **Situation:** A major foundation announces a grant opportunity focused on using technology to improve student success in a specific academic field. The grant application requires a collaborative proposal involving multiple departments and demonstrating an innovative approach.
- **Discussion:**
  - How can the IT department adapt its existing resources and expertise to align with this specific funding opportunity?

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# MHEC IT Leadership Launchpad Series: Transforming Real-World Challenges into Triumphs

✓ Breaking Down Silos: Communication Strategies That Work
- September 24, 2024, 1:30 p.m. CT

✓ Culture Club: Navigating Your Institution's Unique Landscape
- October 8, 2024, 1:30 p.m. CT

✓ Agility Bootcamp: Fostering Innovation in Times of Change
- October 29, 2024, 3:00 p.m. CT

Connecting the Dots: Holistic Approaches to IT Challenges
- November 12, 2024, 3:00 p.m. CT

Hidden Gems: Maximizing Your Current IT Assets
- December 10, 2024, 3:00 p.m. CT

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# Questions?

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