



# ***Data to Design***

## ***Building a New Learning Ecosystem at UNT***

Dr. Heidi Elmendorf and Dr. Randy Bass

Georgetown University

Senior Advisors to President Keller

**STUDENT PORTRAITS**  
**DATA**  
**SYMPOSIUM**

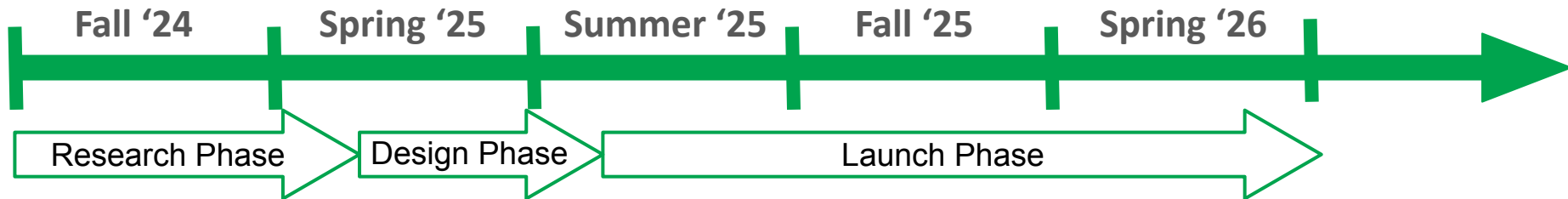


**2025 UNT Student Portraits Data Symposium**

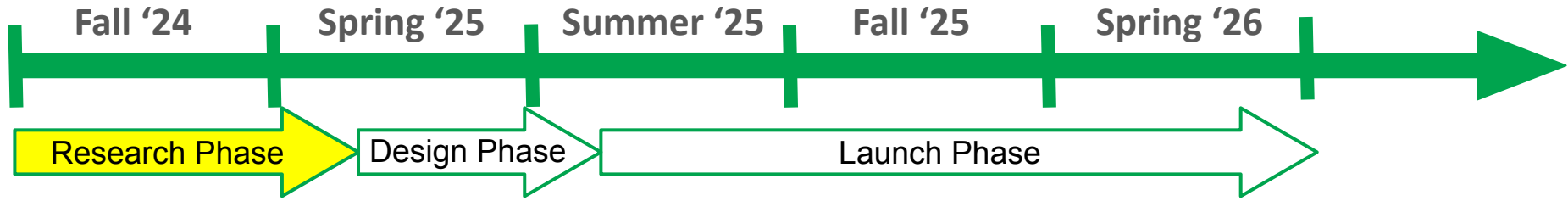
**May 15, 2025**



# Our Research and Design Process



- **Research** (Fall 2024 and Winter 2025)
  - Defining the challenge
  - Data sources and data gathering (listening to the community)
  - Making sense of what we learned
- **Design** (Spring 2025)
  - Defining a possible model
  - Creating a design process
  - Designing a new ecosystem
- **Launch** (Summer 2025 →)
  - *Looking ahead*



# The Research Phase



## Defining the Challenge

President Keller has challenged UNT

*"to create transformative value for students and enhance innovation and economic impact for our region, our state, and our nation, and to make UNT a leader in a new generation of great American universities. **To realize this vision, we need to redesign our approach to supporting teaching and learning at UNT to better support student success and learning outcomes."***



# Data sources and data gathering

- **Quantitative Data:**
  - College readiness
  - DFW and retention rates
  - Student success markers
  - Financial models
- **The Internal Landscape:**
  - Listening sessions (one-on-one interviews and small focus groups)
  - Over 165 administrators, staff, and faculty (plus a few student leaders)
- **The External Landscape:**
  - Effective models of institutional transformation and student success
  - A new focus on universities that center access, innovation, and excellence to provide transformative value to society.



# Making sense of what we learned, part 1

- **Students**

- UNT enrollment has grown dramatically (↑30% in enrollment over past decade)
- Broadly accessible: ~90% local, ~50% low-income, ~50% first-gen, ~50% transfer
- FTIC students are notably less college-ready (~90% STEM students not “math ready”)
- 1<sup>st</sup>→2<sup>nd</sup> year retention (~77%) and graduation rates (~65%) are low

- **Institution and People**

- Culture of caring & Abundance of local innovators and innovations
- Financial constraints & Pressure to sustain and grow R1 mission
- Deeply siloed structure & Highly focused on standardized procedures

- **Landscape**

- A national challenge to the value of higher ed and a need to demonstrate ROI
- The necessity of bridges between education and careers



## Making sense of what we learned, part 2

We learned where gaps in institutional knowledge lie:

- What knowledge and practices are others at UNT successfully employing?
- Who are the UNT students of 2025 as learners (and how the students of 2030 will be different)?
- How can this knowledge be translated for UNT educators to improve student success?
- How can we better help students connect their educational journey with their career goals?

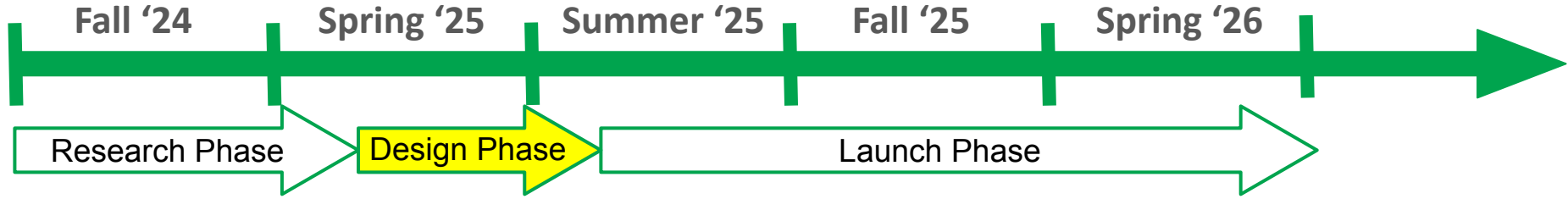


## Making sense of what we learned, part 3

This will require a University that:

- Functions as an ecosystem with both internal and external connectivity.
- Is built as a learning organization.
- Leverages institutional strengths & expertise to drive student success.
- Has a holistic, integrated, and aligned curriculum.
- Is proactive and nimble in anticipating and responding to changing internal and external needs.
- Engages everyone in being accountable for student success.

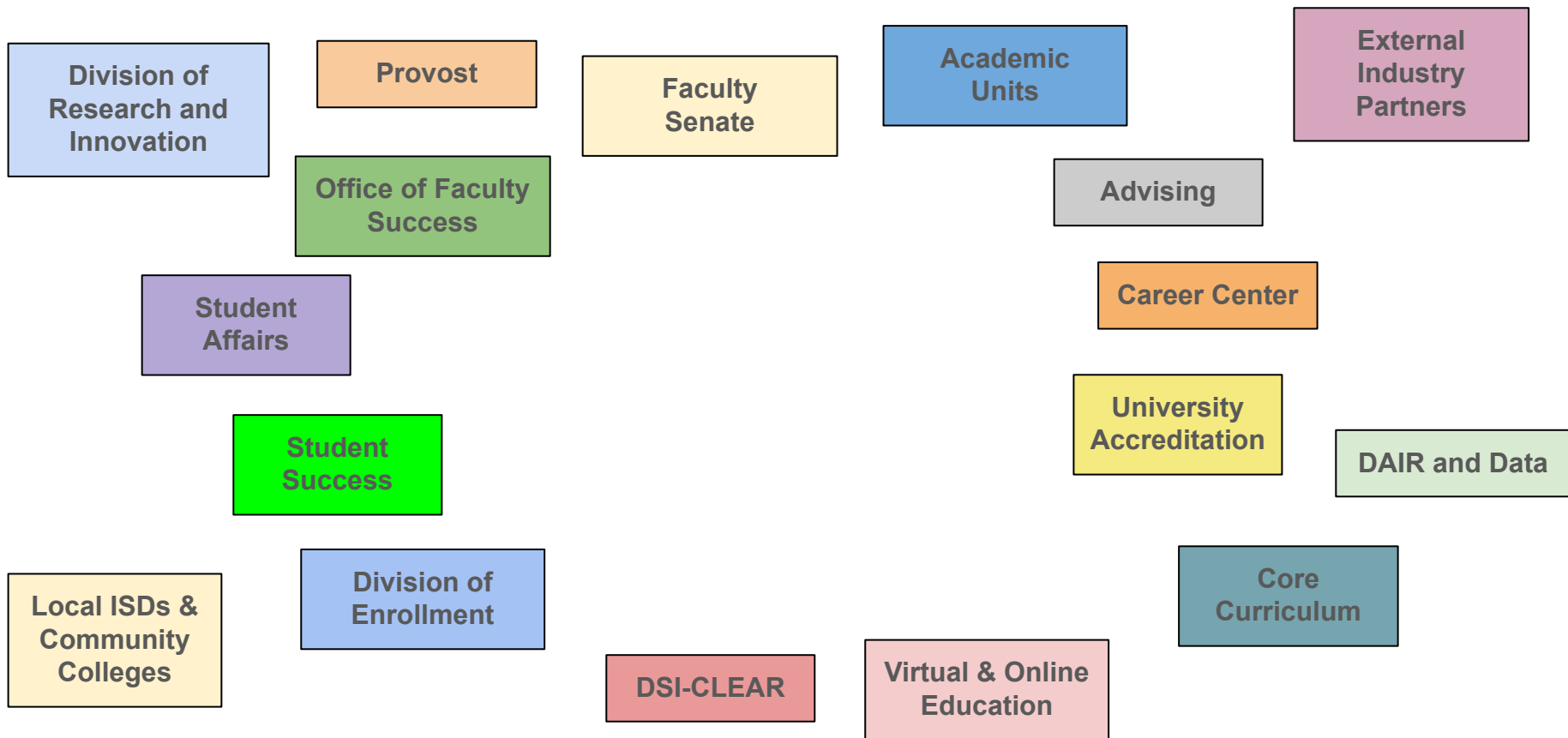




# The Design Phase

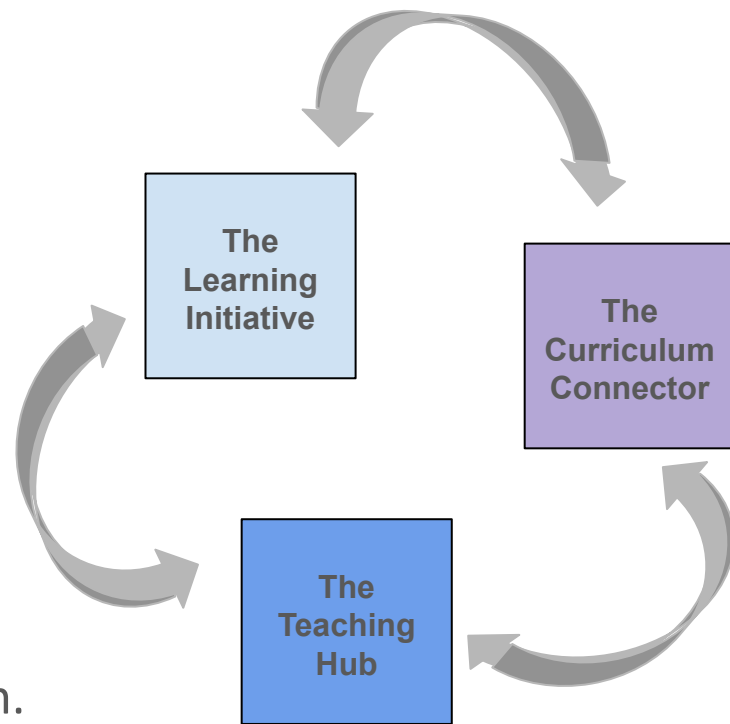


# The Broader Ecosystem



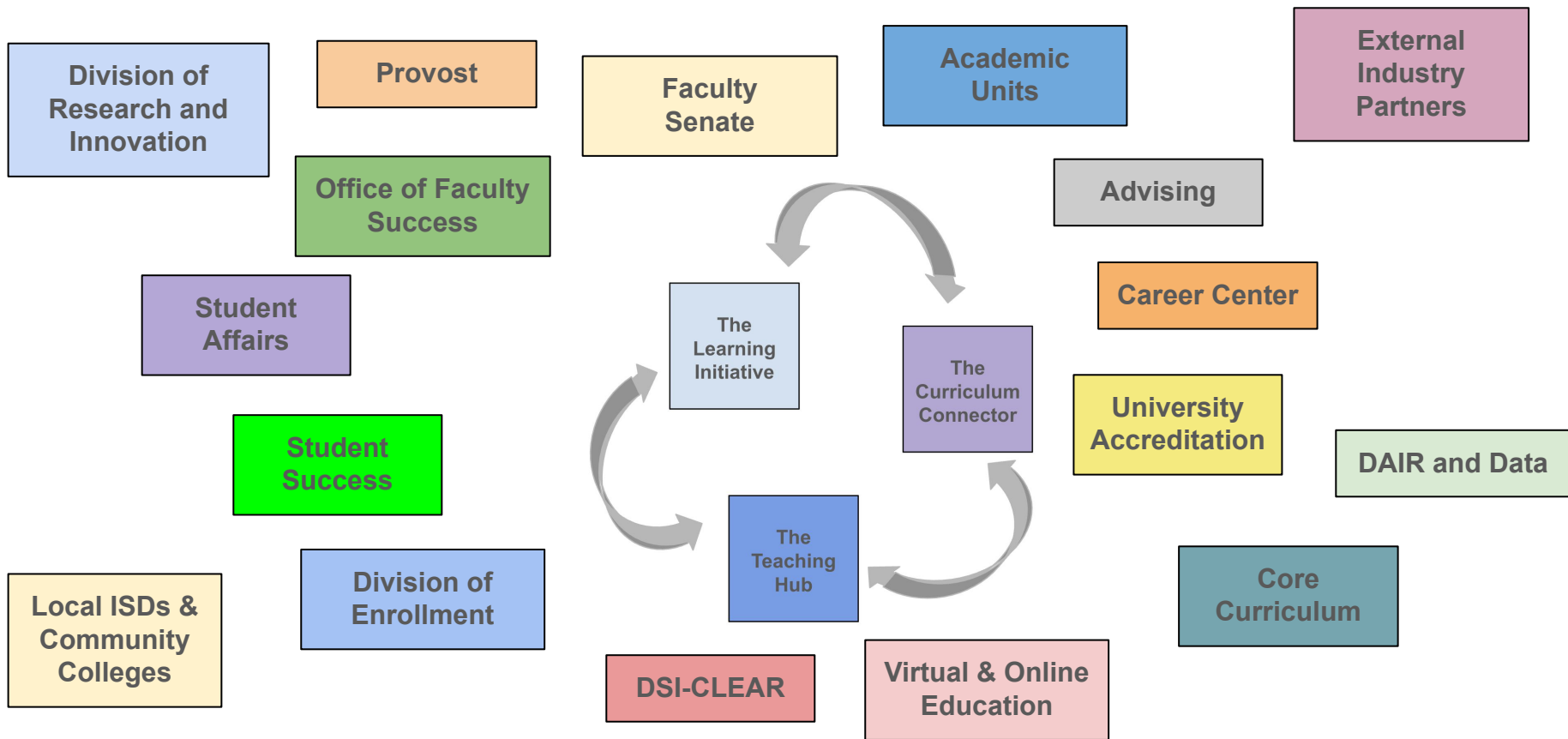
An enriched ecosystem needs 4 capacities:

- The ability to **generate knowledge** about students, teaching, and learning;
- The ability to **translate** evidence-based and theory-based knowledge into empowering practices for instructors of all kinds;
- The ability to **align** the curriculum with itself and the entry and exit points of students.
- The ability to **interconnect** these capacities to each other and to other parts of the ecosystem.





# A New Learning and Innovation Ecosystem





# The Design Process

- 5 Design Charrettes
  - ~50 faculty and staff
  - All of you
- Foci:
  - #1 - vision and value proposition
  - #2 - the functions of each unit
  - #3 - the connectivity among units
  - #4 - incentives and rewards

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  - #5 - linking to the broader ecosystem  
(aka today's work!)



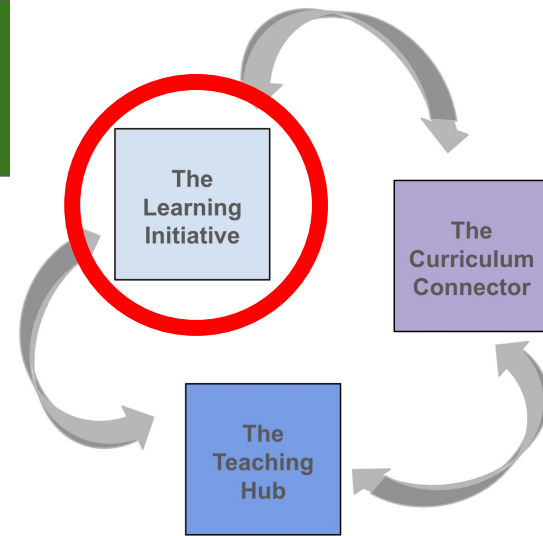


# Designing a new ecosystem

## The Learning Initiative

The Learning Initiative at UNT is a pioneering effort that advances innovative, research-based approaches to learning through collaboration, scholarship, and community engagement.

- **Bridges research and practice** to enhance instructional design and professional growth
- **Exploring human learning science** by engaging faculty, staff, and students across disciplines
- **Fosters multidisciplinary partnerships** to support student success and institutional innovation
- **Catalyzes scholarly inquiry and creative problem-solving** to improve teaching and curriculum design at UNT.



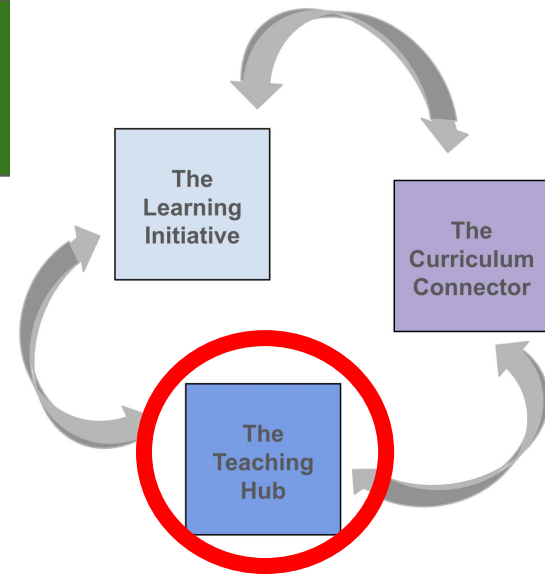


# Designing a new ecosystem

## The Teaching Hub

The Teaching Hub at UNT is a collaborative, inclusive and comprehensive center dedicated to advancing transformative, evidence-based teaching across the University.

- **Builds on faculty expertise** and empowers them with strategic support, practical resources, and innovative tools
- **Fosters interdisciplinary collaboration** and mentorship to support a sense of shared responsibility for student success
- **Enhances teaching practices** to create meaningful, impactful learning experiences in classrooms and online
- **Drives academic excellence and student success** through creativity and community.





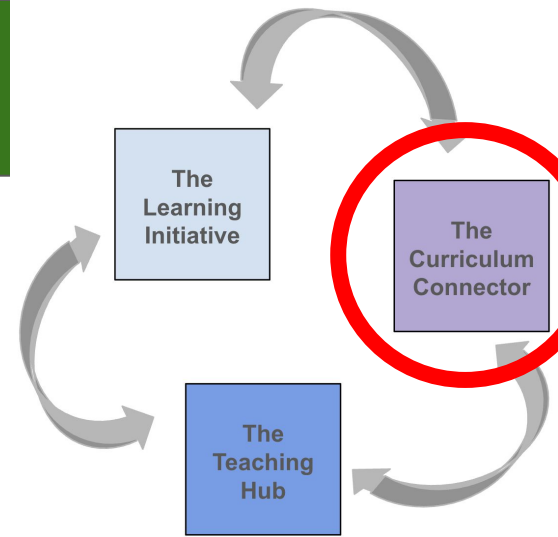


# Designing a new ecosystem

## The Curriculum Connector

The Curriculum Connector is a transformative initiative at UNT that aligns the UNT curriculum with entry and exit points to drive student success through innovation and collaboration.

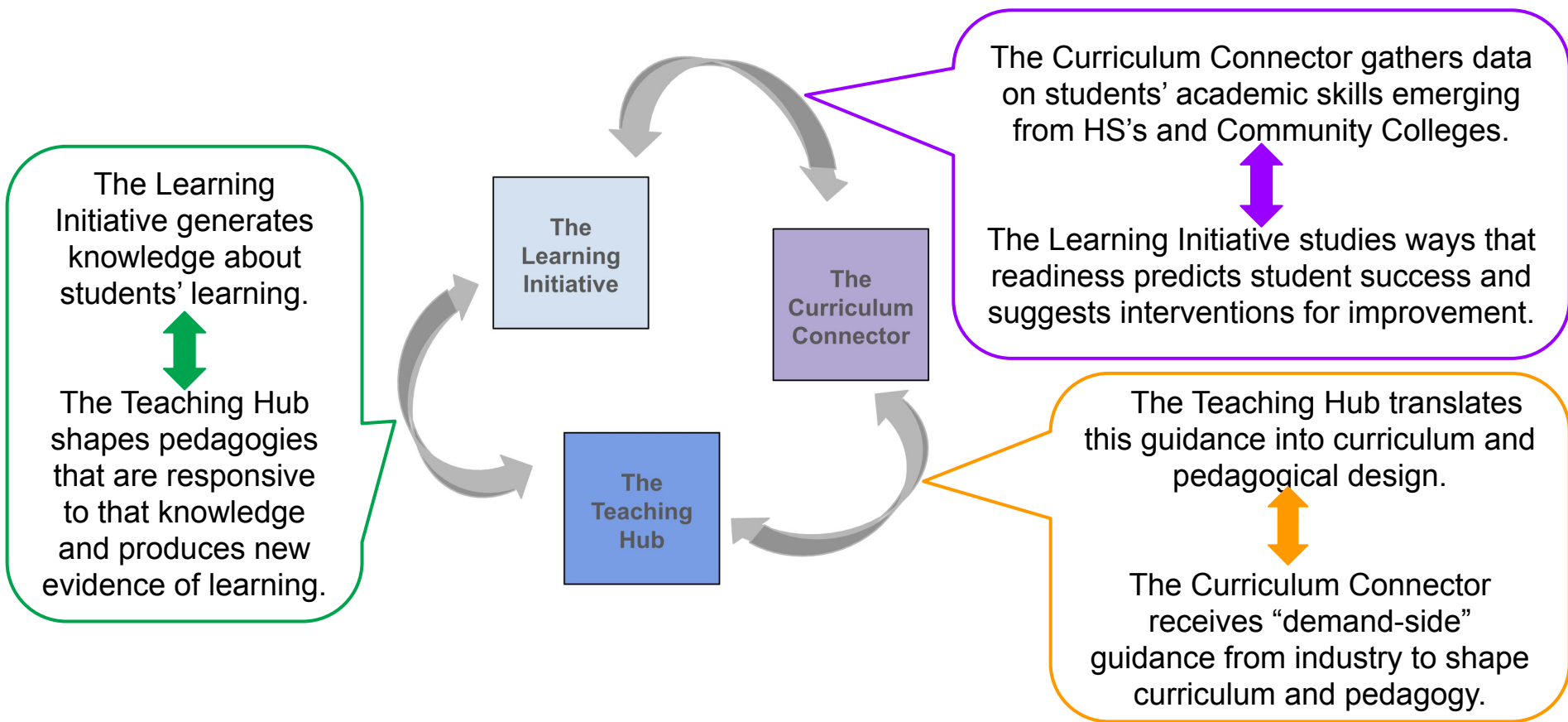
- **Bridges research, curriculum, and career pathways** to create a future-ready education
- **Ensure real-world relevance** through collaborations with faculty, students, and industry partners
- **Enhances curriculum through alignment** with skills and experience.
- **Strengthens UNT's institutional impact** by supporting student outcomes **from enrollment to career**







# Building a new learning and innovation ecosystem for UNT and a new model for higher education.



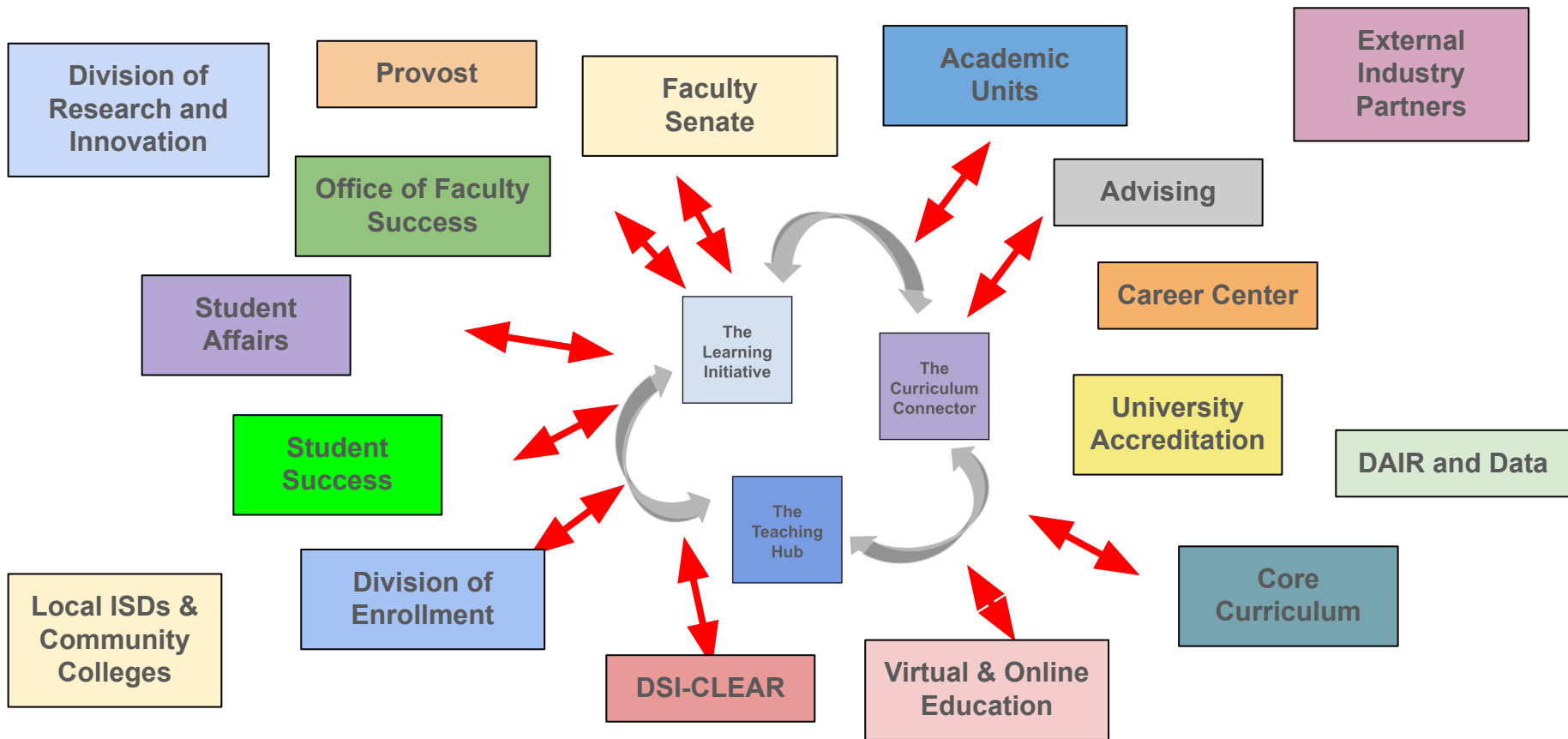


Building connections in the new ecosystem

Before the design session...  
Questions?



# A New Learning and Innovation Ecosystem

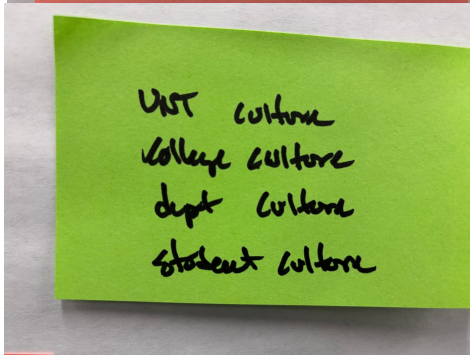
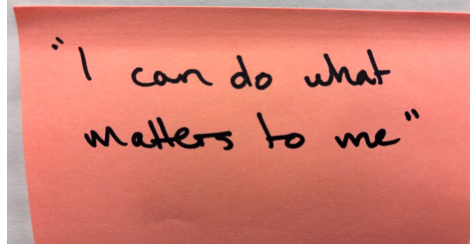
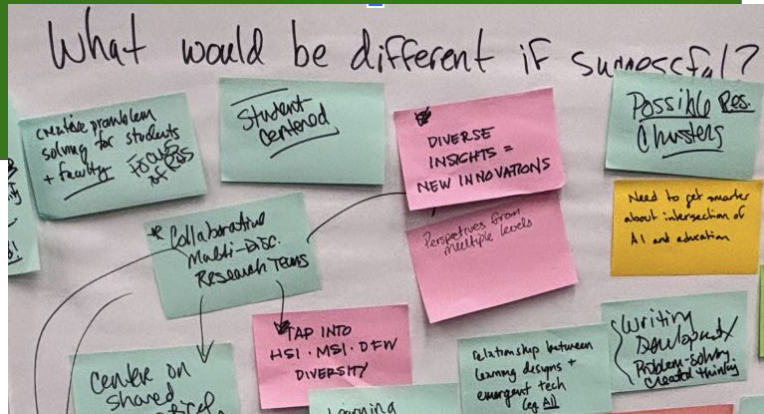




## Design Charrette #5

### Let's get to work:

- How can your work (and/or that of your office or unit) contribute to this new ecosystem?
- How can your work (and/or that of your office or unit) benefit from this new ecosystem?
- How can this new ecosystem build stronger partnerships between faculty and staff?
- How can this new ecosystem build stronger connections across silos?



<https://www.menti.com/bl8q39uo2jga>

[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

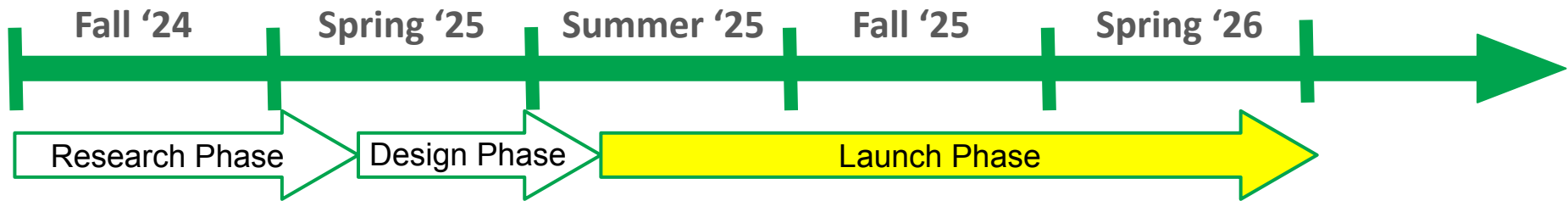
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**Building connections in the new ecosystem**

Additional Questions?



# The Launch Phase



## Next steps in designing the new ecosystem

- Charters
- Leadership and staffing
- Listening and response tour of offices/units at UNT
- Philanthropy
- Faculty and staff reward structures
- Pilot year projects





# Thank You

**Follow up:**

Heidi Elmendorf  
Randy Bass

[hge@georgetown.edu](mailto:hge@georgetown.edu)  
[bassr@georgetown.edu](mailto:bassr@georgetown.edu)