

Making Connections: DU Connect + Pop Up Faculty Clubs

Problem:

Faculty across DU do not know what their colleagues are working on, making it difficult to find partners for collaboration. *(This sentiment came up time and again during the DU IMPACT 2025 process.)*

DU Connect

DU Connect is a technical solution – a search portal – for connecting faculty, staff and students for collaboration and problem-based learning opportunities.

The beta version emerged when the Office of Academic Innovation (OAI) hosted a design thinking workshop with faculty and staff and then turned to IR, IT@DU, University Libraries, and MarComm to brainstorm. *DU Connect* went live in spring 2018, accessing information on faculty research, bios, and publications from multiple university systems.

DU Connect is the **first step** in connecting, catalyzing, and accelerating faculty and student cross-disciplinary collaboration at DU.

“Amazing –
and fun!”

Chancellor Chopp

“It was great to see so
many faculty and staff
attend and also to think
about the possibilities for
future collaborations.”

Laura Sponsler,
Clinical Assistant Professor

Pop-Up Faculty Clubs

DU does not (yet) have a faculty club, where faculty can gather to learn about each other's work. So... OAI created pop-up faculty clubs to **unite** and **convene** faculty for impromptu discussions around specific teaching and research interests.

Pop-ups were held monthly in different locations across campus. Topics and co-sponsors included the Center on American Politics, healthcare and health research, leadership, social innovation, socio-legal studies, and college access.

In response to feedback, OAI helped faculty gather together to talk about collaboration – irrespective of specific teaching and research interests – at an all-faculty pop-up this fall. Reach out if you are interested in attending a pop-up or joining the OAI mailing list!

Brought to you by the Office of Academic Innovation!



DU IMPACT 2025

Transformative Direction 2: Designing and Developing Knowledge