University of Michigan's
National Hub for Innovation in Deeply-Digital Curricula

Through its national network of teachers UMCDC develops & vets standards-aligned curricula uniquely tailored for integrating tech into the classroom.

UMCDC distributes this curricula through elegantly designed digital tools that promote collaboration, self-paced learning, & open exploration.

We need to have a globally-competitive, cutting-edge education system that serves all students.

How do we ELEVATE the quality of learning in MORE SCHOOLS in MORE PLACES across America?

Supporting classroom teachers in their digital transformation
Hard-copy textbook publishers and their teacher-centered curriculum guides are rapidly being replaced with student laptops. Teachers now have to sift through the overwhelming array of digital tools and online resources to craft digital lessons from scratch.

Using technology to dramatically improve learning
Teachers are the heart of the classroom but curricula is the heartbeat! At the University of Michigan’s Center for Digital Curricula, we provide teachers with deeply-digital curricula that employs highly-interactive tools, giving students new ways to more effectively learn.
What is HIGHLY INTERACTIVE, DEEPLY DIGITAL CURRICULA?

The UMCDC supports teachers in developing year-long, standards-aligned, modern, interactive curricula specifically designed for the students’ digital devices. Students can use the curricula in groups or solo to immerse themselves in a rich digital learning experience. Most importantly, while these curricula can be used as is, teachers can easily personalize the lessons to fit the individual needs of each of their students. UMCDC has already created and released highly-interactive, deeply-digital curricula for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade science that are aligned with the Next-Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We have also released 3rd grade math that is aligned with the EngageNY Math standards, and 3rd grade social studies that are aligned with the Michigan Social Studies Standards. We will continue to pay teachers to create more and more deeply digital curricula that will be distributed to classrooms for free from a single, secure source.

Support for the UM.Center for Digital Curricula is growing rapidly. In partnership with the Michigan Department of Education, and with the support of the UM College of Engineering we are contributing deeply-digital, highly-interactive lessons to GoOpenMichigan, Michigan’s Open Education Resources (OER) website. Our current partnership includes 10 schools across Michigan, with over 600 students currently using the Center’s science, math, and social studies Roadmaps. The results? Classrooms are in the process of being transformed: Teachers are integrating the Center’s digital curricula into their classrooms and dramatically improving how their students learn.

With this success, we are looking to expand to more schools in 2020 and beyond.

Learn more at cdc.engin.umich.edu/

Who we are

40 years ago as an artificial intelligence researcher, Dr. Elliot Soloway was drawn to the challenge of how to make computers learn.

But, after the birth of his first child, he had an epiphany: Making children smarter would be a much better use of his time than making computers smarter. This inspired him to stop doing AI research altogether and start working on educational technology. But as a college professor with little experience in education technology, he needed someone who really understood K-12.

Dr. Cathie Norris, a math and Spanish teacher for 14+ years was the ideal partner. In the days when technology was just taking off in the classroom, the duo founded a company to give teachers mobile learning tools. However, they quickly learned that tools are not enough—teachers need curricula that can guide them in effectively using the tech tools with their students.