Summary

Due to the **novel coronavirus pandemic** that caused Penn State to **switch to remote learning beginning March 16th**, several Media Commons, Maker Commons, and Immersive Experiences Lab services had to quickly change processes to adjust to the new circumstances. Physically-bound services and technology like the One Button Studios, 3D printing lab, Invention Studio, and the Immersive Experiences Lab's immersive "pinwheel" theater were all closed and received no new engagements after spring break. However, despite the shuttering of all Media Commons labs at every campus, consultants and faculty were able to successfully transition nearly all scheduled workshops and projects to virtual and remote learning.

As a result of the disruption from the pandemic, in-person consultations fell greatly during the second half of the semester which normally accounts for half of our engagement numbers in a semester. Workshop numbers held relatively stable compared to Spring 2019 despite the switch to virtual and remote learning.

Spring 2020 saw 6,851 students and faculty use the Media Commons, Maker Commons, and Immersive Experiences Lab initiatives across the Commonwealth. Much of this use was focused in **228 classes** in nearly every discipline offered at Penn State. To facilitate these interactions outside of University Park, traveling consultants **visited campuses 32 times and offered 39 remote sessions** to provide instruction, consultations and support.

One Button Studios at every campus were closed after spring break and the count of how many videos were created pre-pandemic remains inaccessible at this time. Before the 3D printing lab shut down after spring break, students across the Commonwealth created **3,420 3D prints** in pursuit of their own curiosity and course work.

Finally, **Penn State Creates**, a new engagement opportunity invented by Media Commons during the second half of the semester, engaged **over 100 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members** in remotely exploring creativity in new workshops geared around new shared experiences and contexts.

The report that follows breaks down our interactions with students and faculty and examines engagement levels with services offered, locations, and by individual colleges. Throughout the report we'll draw attention to exciting assignments, surprising class partnerships, and interesting observations from the semester - stories that tell the ways in which Penn State faculty and students are pushing the boundaries of education into the future. We'll also point out usage and technology trends that draw from Media Commons' proven history in supporting multimedia and emerging technology as well as reflect on challenges and opportunities in the coming semesters.

People Helped

Faculty and students used Media Commons and Maker Commons services in a variety of ways in all of our locations over the course of the semester. These charts count how many people were aided by our consultants in either 1-on-1 consultations or in-class workshops.

Media Commons @ University Park	# of People Helped
Pattee Library Knowledge Commons	902
Pollock Building Computer Lab	19
PAMS Library, Davey Lab	16
Immersive Experiences Lab, Agricultural Sciences & Industries Building	125
Media Commons Workshops	3,535
Maker Commons Workshops	509
Immersive Experiences (IMEX) Workshops	38
University Park Total	**5,144**

University Park Technology Breakdown:
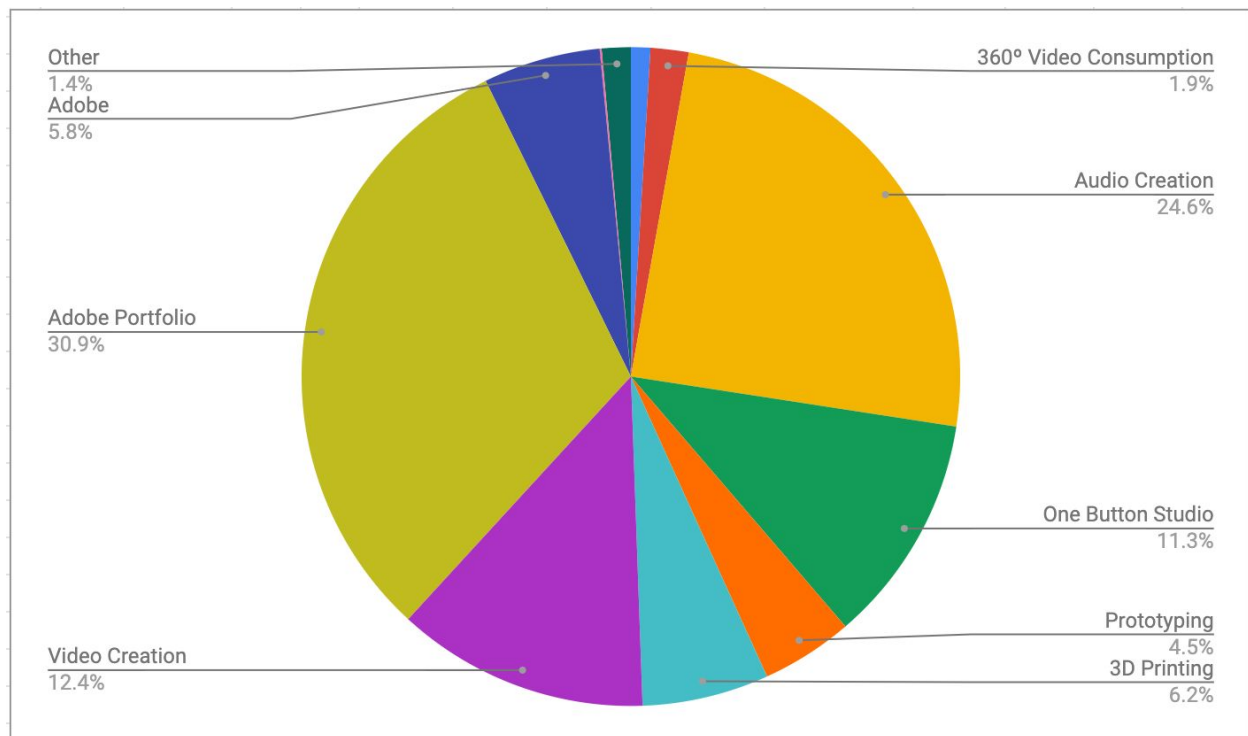
360º Video Creation	360º Video Consumption	Audio Creation	One Button Studio	Prototyping	3D Printing	Video Creation	Adobe Portfolio	Adobe Spark	Storytelling	Other
49	96	1,266	580	232	320	637	1,590	296	5	73

Featured Story:

- Students taking **English 15 at University Park** (as part of the new instructor cohort of sections) this semester were taught how to create outstanding professional academic portfolios using Adobe Portfolio. The overall class assignment, led by **Ashley Rea**, required students to personalize their design themes, create and organize web pages, and create multimedia content to showcase their projects and submit work for their class. At each of the 51 workshops taught this semester, the portfolio value was demonstrated and students were encouraged to continue to add pages and content to their sites throughout the duration of their academic careers.

Media Commons @ Western Campuses	# of People Helped
Altoona	59
Beaver	279
Behrend	0
DuBois	0
Fayette	21
Greater Allegheny	0
Harrisburg	13
Mont Alto	41
New Kensington	59
Pittsburgh Center	1
Shenango	15
Western Campuses Total	**488**

Media Commons @ Eastern Campuses	# of People Helped
Abington	267
Berks	506
Brandywine	277
Great Valley	37
Hazleton	26
Lehigh Valley	0
Philadelphia Center	0
Schuylkill	22
Scranton	41
Wilkes-Barre	12
York	31
Eastern Campuses Total	**1,219**

Featured Story:

- As the university moved to remote instruction the Media Commons traveling consultants did as well. They provided 39 remote sessions for students and pivoted 10 class projects to online options. In addition 17 classes were already using software that easily transitioned to remote instruction.

Class Partnerships Across Colleges

Media Commons consultants partner with faculty from every college at Penn State to help design multimedia and making assignments, provide workshops for students, and 1-on-1 consultations as the students complete their work. This table represents how many classes were worked with in which colleges during the semester.

Partnered Service Key: Media Commons = MeC, Maker Commons = MaC, Immersive Experiences Lab = IMEX

Colleges	University Park				Western Campuses				Eastern Campuses				Grand Totals
	MeC	MaC	IMEX	Total	MeC	MaC	IMEX	Total	MeC	MaC	IMEX	Total	
Agricultural Sciences	1	1	-	**2**	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**	**2**
Arts & Architecture	3	1	-	**4**	1	-	-	**1**	-	1	-	**1**	**6**
Business	5	-	-	**5**	2	-	-	**2**	5	-	-	**5**	**12**
Communications	3	1	3	**7**	-	-	-	**-**	3	-	-	**3**	**10**
Earth & Mineral Sciences	6	-	-	**6**	-	-	-	**-**	1	-	-	**1**	**7**
Education	5	-	-	**5**	-	-	-	**-**	2	-	-	**2**	**7**
Engineering	-	20	-	**20**	1	-	-	**1**	3	1	-	**4**	**25**
Health & Human Development	3	-	-	**3**	4	-	3	**7**	3	-	-	**3**	**13**
Information Sciences & Technology	1	2	-	**3**	1	-	-	**1**	-	-	1	**1**	**5**
Liberal Arts	104	4	-	**108**	7	1	-	**8**	13	-	1	**14**	**130**
Medicine	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**	**-**
Nursing	-	-	-	**-**	1	-	-	**1**	-	-	-	**-**	**1**
Sciences	-	1	-	**1**	3	-	-	**3**	2	-	-	**2**	**6**
Graduate School	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**	1	-	-	**1**	**1**
Student Affairs	-	2	-	**2**	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**	**2**
University Libraries	-	-	-	**-**	1	-	-	**1**	-	-	-	**-**	**1**
Totals	**131**	**32**	**3**	**166**	**21**	**1**	**3**	**25**	**33**	**2**	**2**	**37**	**228**

Featured Story:

- The noticeable decrease in Liberal Arts class partnerships at University Park this semester was largely due to the pandemic-caused cancellation of the regular ENGL 202C littleBits assignment.

Campus Engagement

Campuses often don't have their own local Media Commons support and so rely on our consultants to visit campus to work with faculty and provide workshops for students. We host several tailored faculty events each semester to discuss opportunities and visit campuses as often as possible to support class partnerships.

Western Campuses	# of Classes	Events	In-Person Visits*	Remote Sessions[†]
Altoona	3	-	2	1
Beaver	10	-	5	7
Behrend	1	-	1	-
DuBois	-	-	1	-
Fayette	2	1	1	1
Greater Allegheny	-	-	1	-
Harrisburg	1	-	1	-
Mont Alto	1	-	-	-
New Kensington	4	-	2	4
Pittsburgh Center	-	-	-	-
Shenango	2	1	1	1
Totals	**24**	**2**	**15**	**14**

* In-Person Visits include travel to campus for teaching workshops, faculty consultations, meeting with students, hosting events, equipment and computer service, and/or One Button Studio tune-ups.
[†] Remote Sessions denote online trainings via Zoom, critiques of project materials uploaded to Canvas, Box, etc and individual meetings with students via videoconferencing.

Featured Story:

- **The Shenango campus** offered the first 3D Scanning Roadshow event in collaboration with a Lartz Memorial Library open house and Tiffany Petricini's CAS 271N. Students brought their personal belongings to have digitized as part of a personal narrative project

- and also attended a campus presentation on a traveling African American history exhibition that used personal artifacts to tell compelling stories of race and justice in the United States. By learning about 3D scanning, students were able to envision capturing further significant personal objects to bring history to life.

Eastern Campuses	# of Classes	Events	In-Person Visits*	Remote Sessions†
Abington	11	-	3	8
Berks	11	-	5	7
Brandywine	6	-	4	3
Great Valley	1	2	1	3
Hazleton	1	-	1	1
Lehigh Valley	-	-	-	-
Schuylkill	2	-	1	1
Scranton	1	-	1	1
Wilkes-Barre	1	-	-	1
York	1	1	1	-
Totals	**35**	**3**	**17**	**25**

* In-Person Visits include travel to campus for teaching workshops, faculty consultations, meeting with students, hosting events, equipment and computer service, and/or One Button Studio tune-ups.
† Remote Sessions denote online trainings via Zoom, critiques of project materials uploaded to Canvas, Box, etc and individual meetings with students via videoconferencing.

Featured Story:

- This semester **Penn State Berks Professor Jayné Park-Martínez** challenged her **EARTH 155N** students to create public service announcements on earth science/environmental topics.The videos were originally going to be produced using iMovie software. When the university moved to remote instruction, the project transitioned to Adobe Spark Video. Adobe Spark facilitated group collaboration and allowed the video project to continue as planned. The students produced wonderful and thoughtful PSA videos.

One Button Studio

Media Commons supports the One Button Studio project across many campuses. The One Button Studio allows students and faculty to simply create good quality academic videos, often for recording presentations, lectures, and demonstrations, or completing class assignments.

Location	# of Videos Created	Total Duration of Videos H:M:S
Pattee Library Knowledge Commons (2 studios)	1,283	63:40:08
Pollock Building Computer Lab (2 studios)	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
PAMS Library, Davey Lab	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
University Park Total	**1,283+**	**63:40:08+**
Abington	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Altoona	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Beaver	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Behrend	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Berks	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Brandywine	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
DuBois* (New SP20)	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Greater Allegheny	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Great Valley	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Harrisburg	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Hazleton	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Hershey	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Lehigh Valley	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Mont Alto	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
New Kensington	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures

Pittsburgh Center	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Schuylkill	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Scranton	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Shenango	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
York	Inaccessible	Due to campus closures
Commonwealth Total	**Inaccessible**	**Due to campus closures**
Total One Button Studio Use		

Featured Story:

- The DuBois campus benefited from the Altoona campus's decommissioning of one of their One Button Studios - in January, Media Commons helped to facilitate the transfer of furniture and technology assets from one campus to another. After an installation trip, the DuBois campus opened their first One Button Studio.

3D Printing

The Maker Commons offers students at University Park, the Commonwealth Campuses, and World Campus access to 30 3D printers through an online submission process. The printers are located at University Park but, through a partnership with University Libraries, are able to ship prints to any student for easy pick-up.

Active PSU Users	694 (1/1/20-5/8/20)
Hours of Print Time	10,391 (~433 days)
Successful Prints	3438
Filament Used	108,510 grams (~239.2 lbs or ~23.6 mi)

Featured Story:

- **Graphic Design 100** students taking **Christine Galbiati's** class at **Penn State Lehigh Valley** made use of our 3D printing services by first creating a design in Adobe Illustrator, next utilizing Tinkercad to create a 3D form from the 2D logo, then finally 3Dprinting the type/logo word. By fulfilling this assignment, the students were challenged to learn how working in different dimensions affects design actualization and also to think about how their work translates from the digital to the physical world.

Website as Central Support Tool

The Media Commons online resources have become the central focus of all training and support across the Commonwealth and beyond with the pivot to online-only instruction. Out of state traffic went up in almost all but one state (DC) versus Spring 2019 and overall visitorship is up over 50% year over year. From this traffic, popular content being very iMovie-focused (tutorials on these topics were the top 4 items) points to projects-in-process as being very well addressed, despite the semester disruption. Unsurprisingly, Maker Commons web traffic fell slightly during the pandemic owing to the very in-person, tactile nature of this service - and pointing towards avenues for exploration of online features to roll out for Fall 2020.

- The number of unique visitors reached **279,401, up 55%** from the prior Spring semester.
- The year over year pageviews also climbed a comparable **46% to 371,753** (vs 254,679).
- Just **16,603 users were within the Commonwealth**, accounting for 10% of US-based traffic.
  - Prior to Spring Break, Commonwealth traffic accounted for 17% of US traffic
  - Following Spring Break, this traffic share dropped to just 6%
- Across the site, popular content included:
  - **Exporting Your iMovie Project** (67,558 visits, up 138% post-Spring Break)
  - **Using Green Screen in iMovie** (49,260 visits, up 51%)
  - **Sound Effects/Voiceovers in iMovie** (32,125 visits, up 92%)
  - **Adding/Customizing Titles in iMovie** (22,848, up 118%)
  - **Exporting an MP3 in GarageBand** (18,988, up 33%)
- Other Media Commons supported web resources saw the following traffic during Spring 2020:
  - makercommons.psu.edu logged 4,885 visitors (down 27% vs Spring 2019) and 42,719 pageviews (down 27% as well)
  - imex.psu.edu garnered 1,899 visitors (up 54%) and 9,180 pageviews (up 68%)
  - adobe.psu.edu saw 17,628 visitors viewing 34,129 pages

Challenges, Opportunities & Notable Trends

- While the pandemic caused unprecedented disruption to Penn State's normal operations in a given semester and will likely continue to disrupt and evolve our operations for several semesters to come, the Media Commons team has worked diligently, both

before the pandemic in anticipating issues and planning for change as well as during this period of remote working and remote learning, to, where possible, adapt our services to the virtual environment or design all new services and opportunities to continue to provide rich multimedia and digital fluency-focused creative learning experiences for all students and faculty. The development of [Penn State Creates and the IMEX[cursions]](#) are just two examples of how the Media Commons team continues to engage students and faculty. The team will continue to develop new ideas over the summer in preparation for a complicated fall semester.

- Nicole Cingolani joined the team in January as our new University Park Coordinator. Nicole is responsible for the implementation of Media Commons, Maker Commons, and IMEX Lab services at the University Park campus and working with faculty to design new digitally fluent assignments.
- Nate Ulrich joined the team in January as the Pollock building Media Commons consultant at University Park and One Button Studio specialist. Nate quickly got up-to-speed on the studio through the new installation at the DuBois campus as well as being involved in the continued development of One Button Studio 2.0.