



MIDWEST
FABLAB
NETWORK

Fab Lab Symposium

November 4-6, 2009

A Fab Lab (Fabrication Laboratory) is a special lab comprised of off-the-shelf, industrial-grade fabrication and electronics tools, integrated in open-source software and programs developed by MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms. Both technical and non-technical users around the world share a common set of platforms and tools for easy, rapid translation of ideas into reality.

Fab Labs create a highly engaged learning environment that stimulates creativity and innovation. The first Fab Labs in the USA outside of MIT have been at several Midwestern colleges who created the Midwest Fab Lab Network (www.mfln.org).

The MFLN and Fab Lab Symposium are open to ANY individuals or organizations in the USA interested in Fab Labs. Please join your colleagues at this Fab Lab Symposium that will focus on Fab Lab experiences, developments and opportunities.

Participants will:

- Understand the explosion of Fab Labs worldwide
- Learn about Fab Labs in STEM education
- Discover how Fab Labs help innovators, inventors, and entrepreneurs
- Explore Fab Labs as community outreach
- Find out the requirements to plan, justify, implement, and sustain a Fab Lab

Presentations will include reports on:

- Existing and prospective Midwestern Fab Labs
- Midwestern use of MIT's Mobile Fab Lab
- MFLN representation at the August 2009 Global Fab lab Conference (Fab 5 in Pune, India)
- Collaborative initiatives undertaken by MFLN

Demonstrations and sessions will give you time for:

- Touring a working Fab Lab
- Exploring the use of Fab Labs for diverse missions
- Discussing prospects for collaborative projects, domestic and global

Key Information:

When: Wednesday November 4, 2009 @ 1:00 p.m. CDT through Friday November 6, 2009 @ 1:00 p.m. CDT

Where: Fox Valley Technical College 1825 N. Bluemound Drive • P.O. Box 2277 Appleton, WI 54912-2277

Fees: \$100.00 Registration fee covers most meals and workshop materials

Travel and Lodging: Responsibility of participants. Comfort Suites Appleton has reserved rooms for participants (request discounted MFLN Symposium rates: 920-730-3800). Comfort Suites provides a FREE SHUTTLE to and from the Appleton Airport, motel, and Symposium.

Registration and Questions: Request registration forms and information at contact@mfln.org. Registration required by October 23, 2009. Contact 920-996-2874 with any questions.