

**Grand Valley State University**

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# Library as Learning Object: When it IS all about the Building! [poster]

Debbie Morrow



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Available at: [https://works.bepress.com/debbie\\_morrow/14/](https://works.bepress.com/debbie_morrow/14/)



## Abstract

Have you ever been a "victim of your own success"? We have faculty who want to bring classes to the library, not to learn about information-finding, but to see and touch the technology that is part of the building itself! Hear about how developing a session featuring GVSU's new library building as a "learning object" has become a great opportunity for creating an engaging learning experience for first year students.



Mary Idema Pew Library Learning & Information Commons (<http://www.gvsu.edu/library/mary-idema-pew-library-21.htm>)

## Goal of the "CIS 150 Library Visit" Program

MISSION of the University Libraries: we seek to "... promote teaching, learning and active scholarship" as broadly as possible through our services and facilities.

GOAL: Provide CIS 150 instructors with the opportunity to incorporate technologies in the Mary Idema Pew Library into their course content; technologies include the Atomic Object Technology Showcase, the Automated Storage & Retrieval System, and assorted technologies throughout the building often related to LEED Platinum design and construction goals.

## OBJECTIVES:

- Sustainable:** the plan must be able to accommodate up to 30+ sections (1000+ students) in a semester
- Educational:** the plan must provide learning experiences uniquely available by encountering the technologies themselves, rather than exclusively via video or documents.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

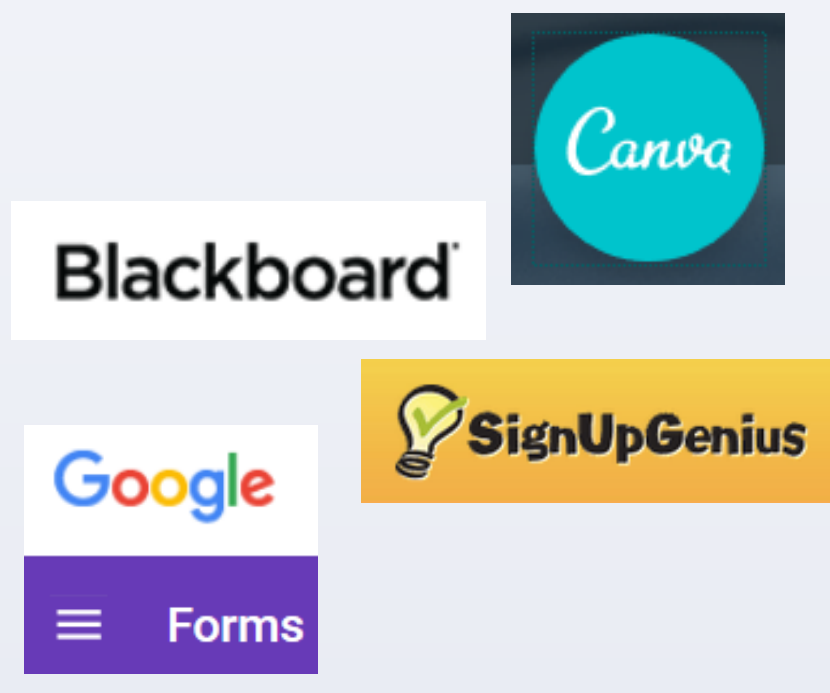
- Up to each CIS150 section instructor. Can be associated with many different portions of the course curriculum, so emphasis of the visit can vary.
- From 7-12 different instructors each Fall and Winter semester; at least 3 in Spring/Summer.

## First-Year and other Students in CIS 150 – Introduction to Computing and Technology

- Mostly First-Year students
- Up to 35-40 students per section
- The majority are not intending to be CS or IS majors
- Required course for many majors and programs, in disciplines as diverse as areas of art, business, sciences, and hospitality management.

## Planning for a Pilot Semester

- Identify **points of interest** → Create infographic handouts
  - Tool:* Canva ([canva.com](http://canva.com))
- Identify **stakeholders** → Agree on gathering spaces, no-visit times, max. visits in a day, etc.
  - Much* asking around and discussion!
- Make materials available → Create a repository for CIS 150 faculty
  - Tool:* Blackboard (campus CMS)
- Plan available **visit dates** → Create sign-up for CIS 150 faculty
  - Tool:* SignUp Genius ([signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com))
- Get **feedback** → Develop student and faculty follow-up surveys
  - Tool:* Blackboard (campus CMS) or Google Forms



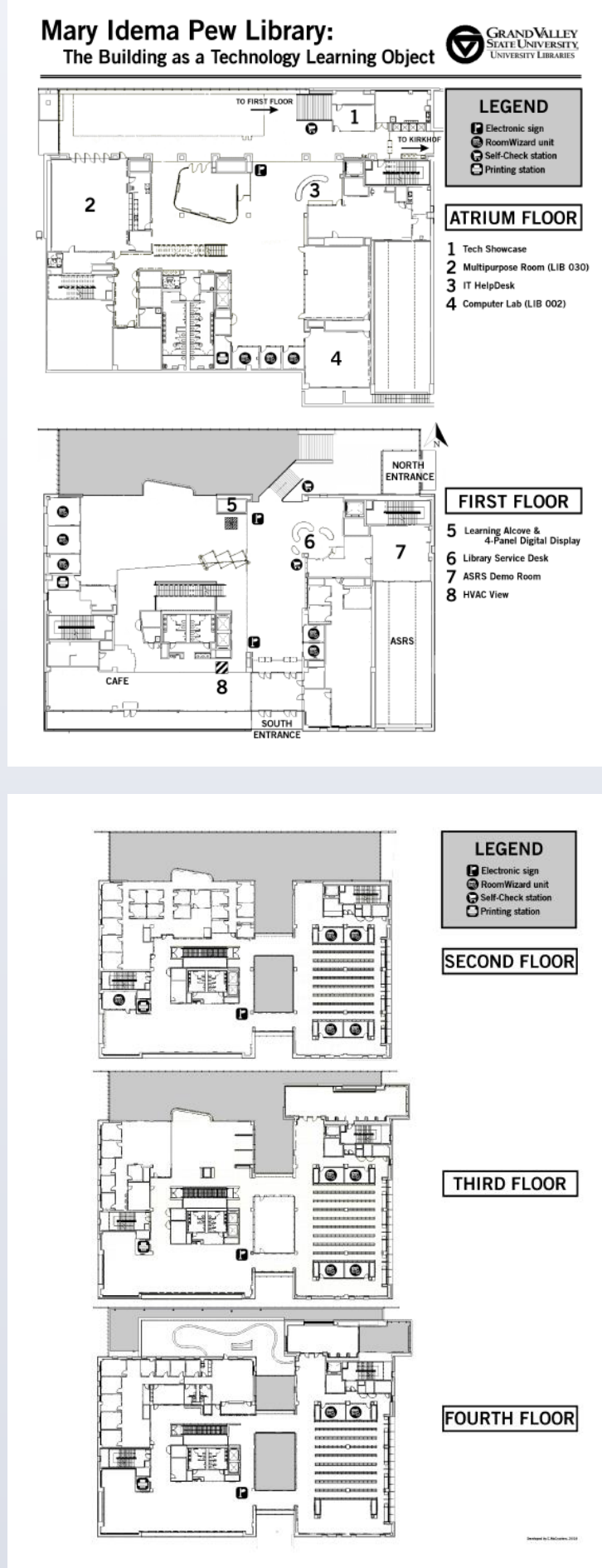
## What Have We Learned So Far?

### From Faculty:

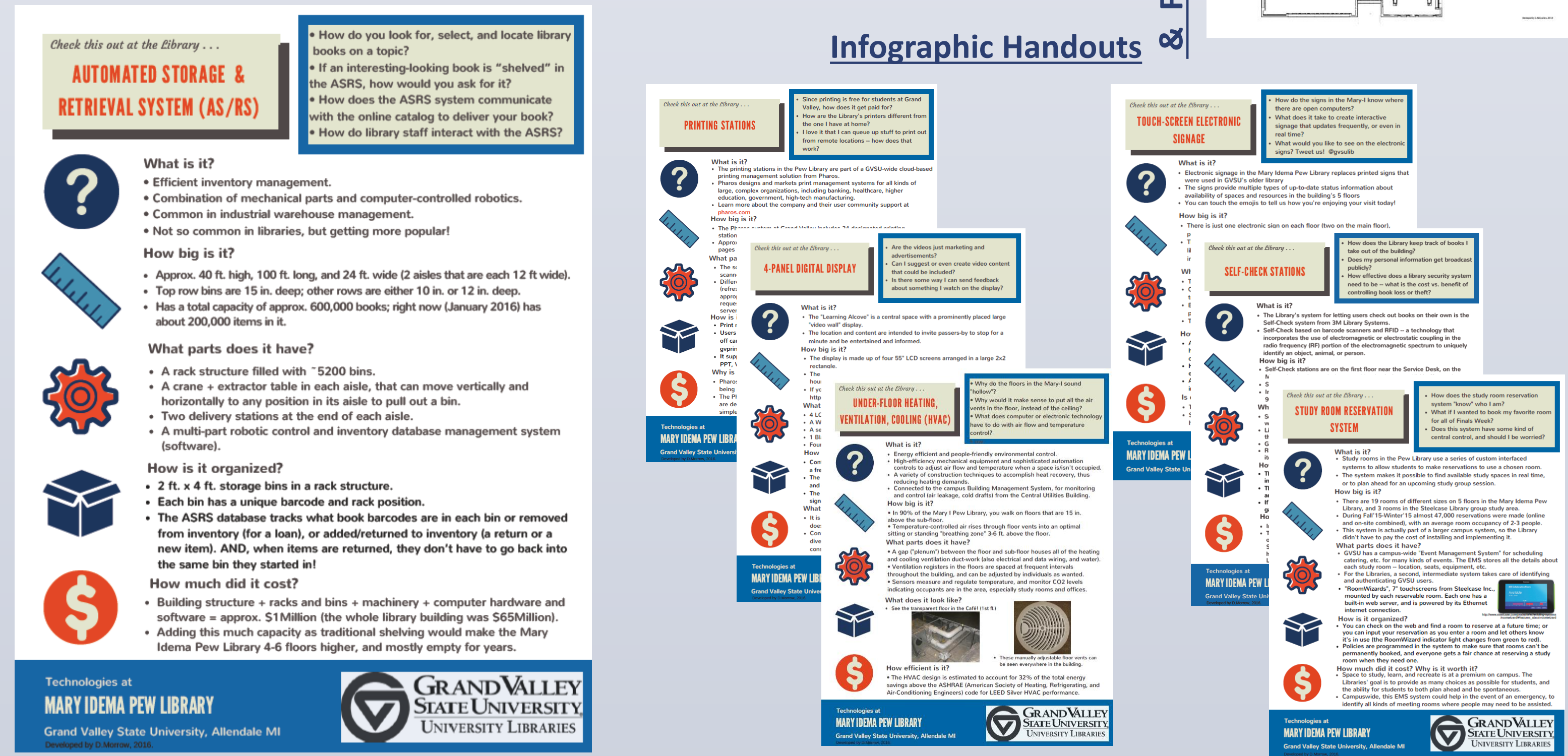
- "Before that visit, [students] never heard about the showcase and retrieval systems. They also had a lot of questions about ARS..."
- "we did not reserve a classroom for that visit, so we ended up meeting in a public area close to showcase. It would be nice to have a reserved room"
- "[students] did tell me it was well worth their time. This was reflected well in the blog [class exercise]."
- Some faculty have no interest in including a library visit to their plans for their section; maybe offer independent extra credit option.
- One instructor is concerned that the handouts provide too many answers, rather than providing a rich beginning point for thinking about technologies.

### From Students:

- "I really enjoyed the 3-D printer. My brother has one, but he doesn't have as many colors. He would love to see this!"
- "The ASRS is a very interesting system. The books are located using RFID tags, so it doesn't matter which container stores them. The library saved a lot of money compared to putting books on shelves. Amazing system!"
- "My favorite part of the Tech Showcase was Oculus Rift. The virtual reality roller coaster was fun and scary at the same time. I wanted to keep going!"
- "...the arm band that our [Showcase] "tourguide" showed us could interact with a screen just by closing your hand into a fist or moving your hand up and down; I never knew anything like that existed."



## Infographic Handouts & Floor Maps



## About the "Mary-I"

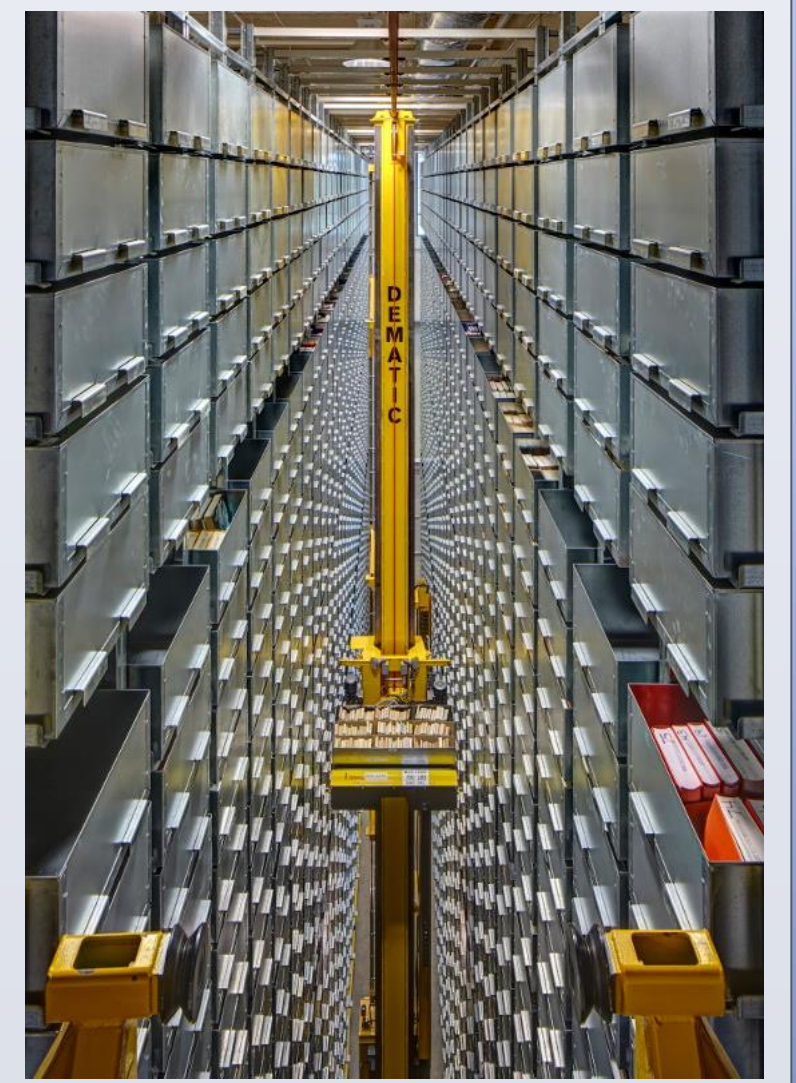
GVSU's Mary Idema Pew Library Learning & Information Commons opened in June 2013.

- LEED Platinum designation defined the design planning
- LEED is an architectural design standard, "Leadership in Energy Efficient Design," that includes emphasis on sustainability, energy efficiency, and human-centered design decisions.
- 1 million visits per year over three years
- Several building partners, including the Atomic Object Technology Showcase, a collaboration between the Libraries and GVSU Information Technology.

Many instructors like to have their students interact with the array of cutting-edge technologies collected in the Technology Showcase. We also wanted to offer "peeks" at some cutting edge building construction and operation technologies that exist in the Mary Idema Pew Library building.



The lower concourse of the new Mary Idema Pew Library at the GVSU Allendale campus. / Dan Royer ([http://www.therapistian.org/sites/default/files/imagecache/article\\_media/ium-article\\_images/20130707133337.jpg](http://www.therapistian.org/sites/default/files/imagecache/article_media/ium-article_images/20130707133337.jpg))



Pew Library's technology upgrades include an Automated Storage and Retrieval System. (Courtesy SIW Group, now Statex) (<http://blog.archpaper.com/2014/09/old-school-meets-new-in-staatecs-pew-library/>)



Eric Kunnen, IT Associate Director of eLearning and Emerging Technologies (<http://www.gvsu.edu/techshowcase/team-4.htm>)

## "Library Visit" Stakeholders

Multiple stakeholders were consulted within and between three campus units in order to ensure that potential traffic could be managed smoothly:

- UL Liaison Librarian for CIS (author)
- CIS 150 Coordinator and other faculty
- IT Building Partner: Atomic Object Technology Showcase
- UL UX staff: room reservations & ASRS demos
- UL Head of Instruction: classroom space
- UL Building Programming Coordinator: group seating space

## What we have learned:

- UL:** We didn't plan enough assignable teaching and other event space in our new building, but we won't let that stop us!
- IT:** Wishes the Tech Showcase had more space for collection and visitors; so would the students who visited!
- CIS:** Probably don't have to plan for 100% participation; but the course coordinator would like to keep working to further develop and promote this opportunity!

## For More Information

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