North Carolina Central University (NCCU) is joining the Maker Movement. In collaboration with the Media Lab of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), NCCU has opened a Fabrication Laboratory, or Fab Lab. The Fab Lab will be part of a network of such laboratories worldwide.

**BACKGROUND**

The initiator of the project is Topper Carew, director and founder of a new Innovation and Inclusion Initiative (3i) at the MIT Media Lab. This initiative involves the design, creation and assisted implementation of Innovation Centers at a select number of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

- NCCU was selected following a meeting between the Chancellor Debra Saunders-White and Dr. Clarence G. Williams, an NCCU alumni who is professor emeritus of Urban Studies at MIT and a former special assistant to MIT’s president. Dr. Williams also is founder and director of the Blacks at MIT history project.
- NCCU is the first HBCU with a fully operating Fab Lab registered with the Fab Foundation’s global community of researchers, makers and innovators.
- A Fab Lab is a technical prototyping platform for innovation and invention. It is a place to create, play and invent, providing stimulus for entrepreneurship.
- The steps for digital fabrication include research and planning; drawing or rendering of the design on a computer; establishing settings for equipment to machine or print the design; simulation of the product; and, finally, producing the product.

**OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THE NCCU FAB LAB**

- Stimulate a culture of creativity/innovation without reliance on formal coursework
- Foster interdisciplinary projects (music, physics, math, art, textiles)
- Collaborate with community programs to develop an interest in invention
- Interact and share with the international Fab Lab community and other maker labs

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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