




About These Slides

- GVSU's Office of the Provost organized two sessions after Spring Break 2026, for discussion of the Blue Dot Ecosystem
 - Faculty and staff were invited. Nearly 200 attended a session.
- The session began with more than a half-hour of remarks, followed by table conversations. Prompts are in the slides.
- For the second session, the remarks were shortened and the table prompts were adjusted. This deck includes slides from both sessions.
- Questions: contact SAVP Ed Aboufadel in the Office of the Provost.



GVSU Office of the Provost

Special Topics

blue·dotTM

March 26 and April 7, 2026



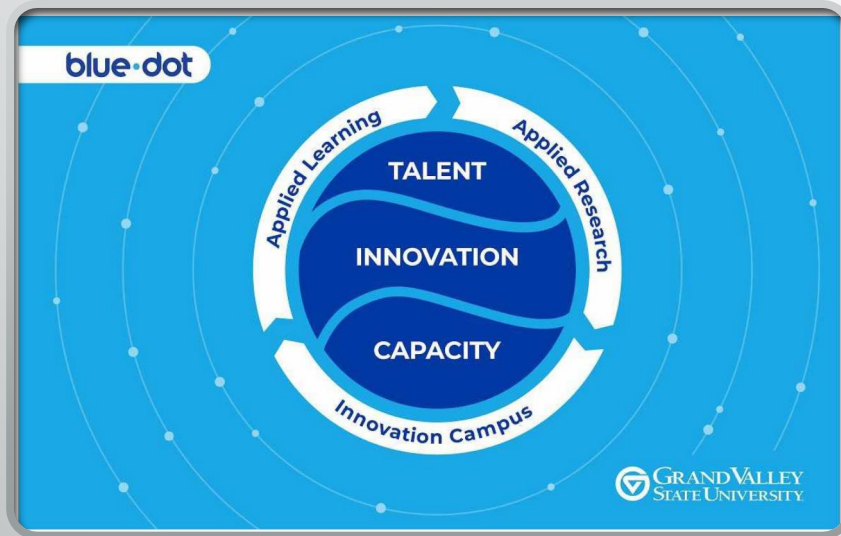
Program for Today

- Overall Goal: To develop academic ideas and build relationships across the university around “Blue Dot”
- Presentation: What is the Blue Dot Ecosystem?
- Activity: The Blue Dot Ecosystem in curriculum, pedagogy, student learning, research, and community partnerships
 - There will be a Qualtrics survey to capture ideas generated during the activity.
- Table Reports and Q&A
 - Note that we have an active “Parking Lot” to post questions and comments.

Remarks from Provost Jen Drake



The Blue Dot Ecosystem



- 3-minute Promotional Video from Fall 2023:
- <https://youtu.be/fVXOs5VIN3g?si=eTPIFXzBWBZCCXGZ>

Three Dimensions of the Blue Dot Ecosystem



Solutions for Business

Using the power of
academia to solve
real-world problems



Tech Talent for the Region

Expanding the pipeline
of tech talent for
Michigan's future

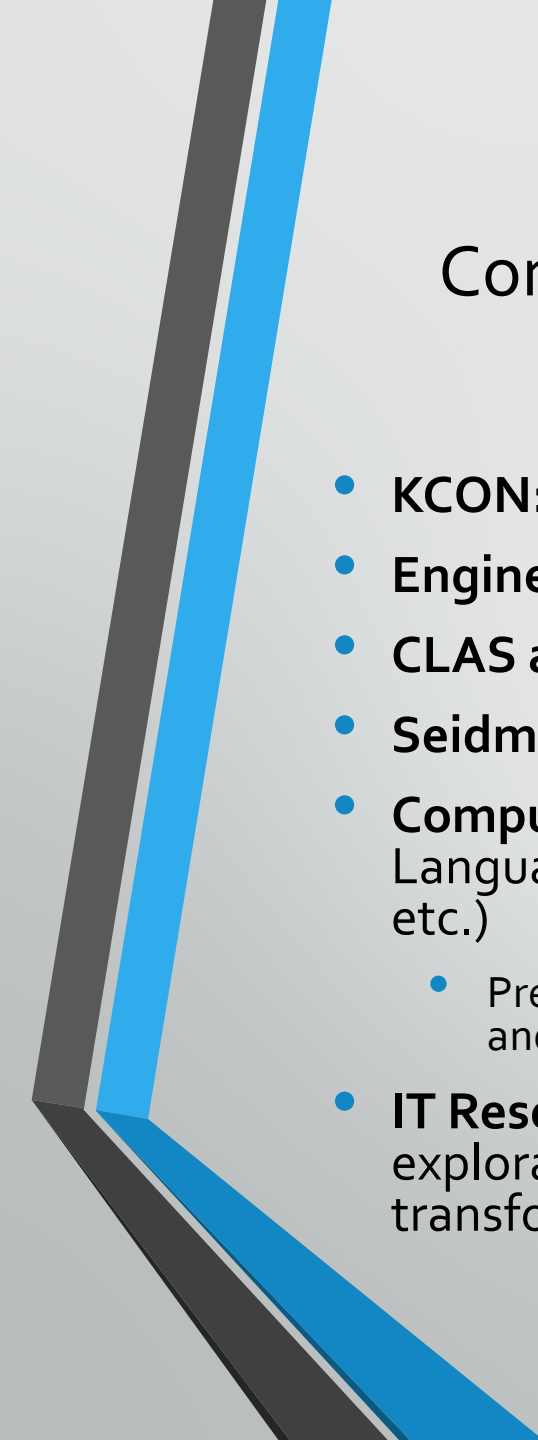


Digital Literacy for All Students

Empowering every student
to thrive in a technology-
driven world

Three Dimensions of the Blue Dot Ecosystem





The Blue Dot Ecosystem: Connections between humanity, technology, and innovation Some current examples ...

- **KCON:** Simulation Center
- **Engineering:** Blue Spark “sandbox”
- **CLAS and beyond:** Digital Literacy initiatives
- **Seidman:** Managerial accounting -- taking students to manufacturing plants virtually.
- **Computing:** Computing + X programs (e.g. Health, Business, Criminal Justice, Modern Languages, Anthropology, Math, Communications & Media, Statistics, Political Science, etc.)
 - Preparing learners to move beyond entry-level tasks being automated toward higher-value, creative, and interdisciplinary roles
- **IT Research and Innovation:** to lead, coordinate, and facilitate the discovery and exploration of emerging technologies and innovative solutions that catalyze digital transformation (DX) at GVSU.

Insights from Dean Bayo Ogundipe



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Insights from Dean Marouane Kessentini

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College of Computing: A Shared Platform for Collaboration, Partnership, and Convergence

- **Blue Dot becomes transformational through convergence: Computing as shared infrastructure and connector enables and scales convergence across disciplines**
 - **Computing + X programs** (e.g. Health, Business, Criminal Justice, Modern Languages, Anthropology, Math, Communications & Media, Statistics, Political Science, etc.)
 - Preparing learners to move beyond entry-level tasks being automated toward higher-value, creative, and interdisciplinary roles
 - **Interdisciplinary applied research collaborations at scale and co-design programs in partnership with the community**
 - Computing + Nursing, Innovation day, etc.
 - **Inclusive computing** : AI literacy/AI ethics and Bias courses (e.g. AI 101, AI 102, AI 401, etc.), minors, certificates and badges open for all students



College of Computing: A Shared Platform for Collaboration, Partnership, and Convergence

- **Accelerating Applied, Human-Centered Computing Innovation**
 - **Trustworthy AI Consortium:** AI, data, and software integrated with human needs, ethics, and societal impact.
 - **AI literacy certificate, Human-Centered Applied AI pathway in AI degrees, Human-Centered Computing degree, etc.**
- **Scaling Convergence and Inclusive Excellence at Reach**
 - **Digital platforms (OMNI) expanding interdisciplinary access, workforce pathways, adult learners and regional impact.**
 - **Experiential learning pathways at scale (Shipyard):** Internships, project-based learning, entrepreneurship, research, etc. to solve interdisciplinary real-world problems



 **THE
RIGHT PLACE**
Advancing the West Michigan Economy

**Greater Grand Rapids
Tech Strategy**

Insights from Vice President Laura Aikens

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A Building Supporting The Ecosystem





A Building Supporting The Ecosystem

Blue Dot Lab: 58,247 square feet. (Replacement of the north side of the Eberhard Center.)

- 7 multi-delivery classrooms
- 1 Data Com teaching lab
- 4 research labs
- Student incubator suite
- New multi-purpose meeting and event space
- Admissions and welcome center
- Main floor café and collaboration space.
- Home for the College of Computing, including the dean's suite, the Academic Computing Institute, the Institute for Cybersecurity Education and Research, a student advising center, and student success center.

A Building Supporting The Ecosystem

L. V. Eberhard Center Renovation: 160,203 square feet (“The Tower”)

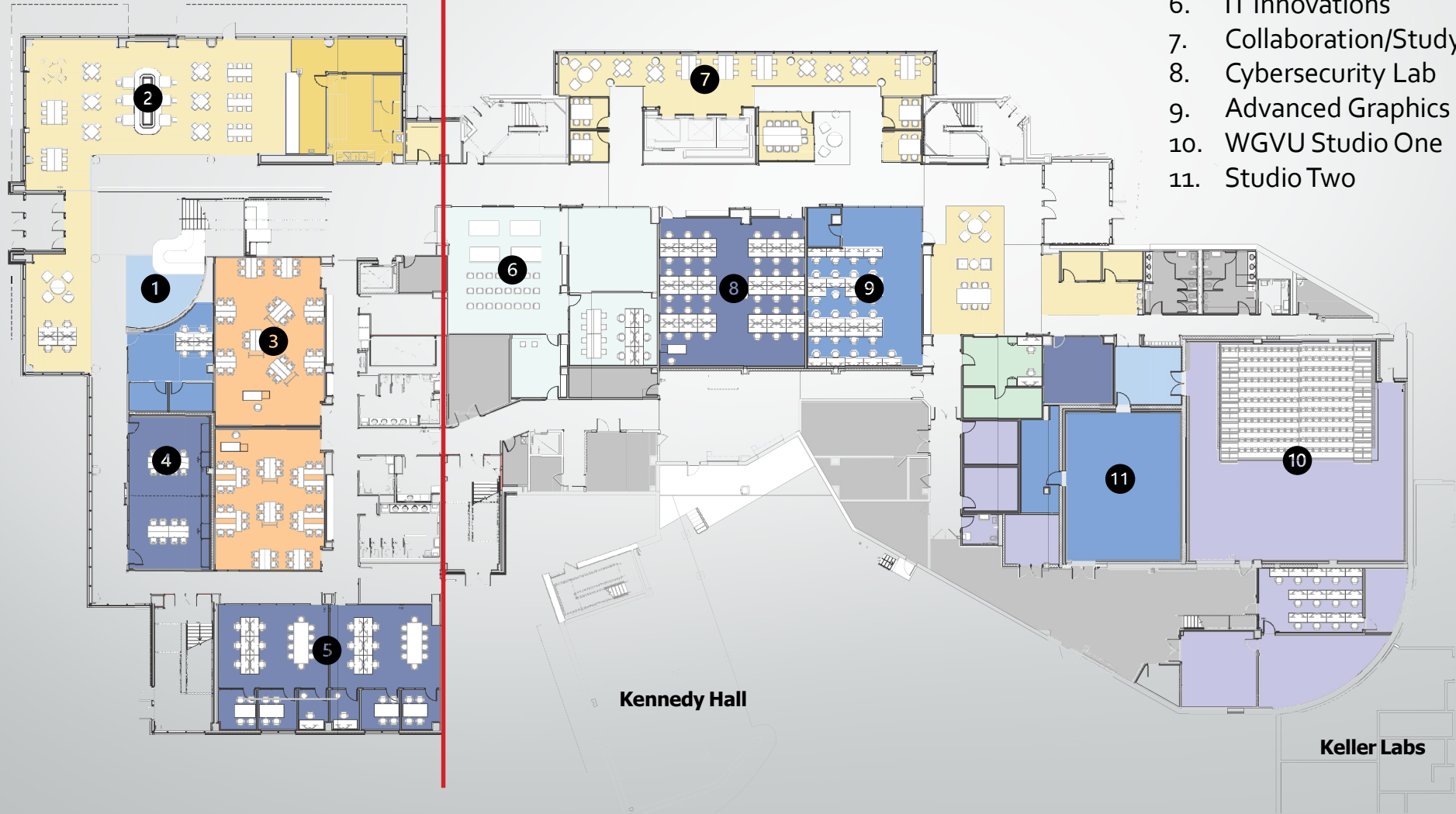
- 4 new classrooms (in addition to existing tower classrooms)
- College of Computing department and faculty offices, and research space
- Student project and collaboration spaces
- Tech Equity Center (digital literacy)
- IT Innovations; IT help desk
- Conference & Events modernization
- WGVU modernization, including multi-use “Studio 2” for academic activity
- Advancement Division modernization

Floor 1

Addition and Renovation Project

← N Not to Scale

Addition ← Renovation



1. Welcome Center
2. Cafe
3. Classroom
4. Research Lab
5. ACI/ICER Suites
6. IT Innovations
7. Collaboration/Study
8. Cybersecurity Lab
9. Advanced Graphics Lab
10. WGVU Studio One
11. Studio Two

Kennedy Hall

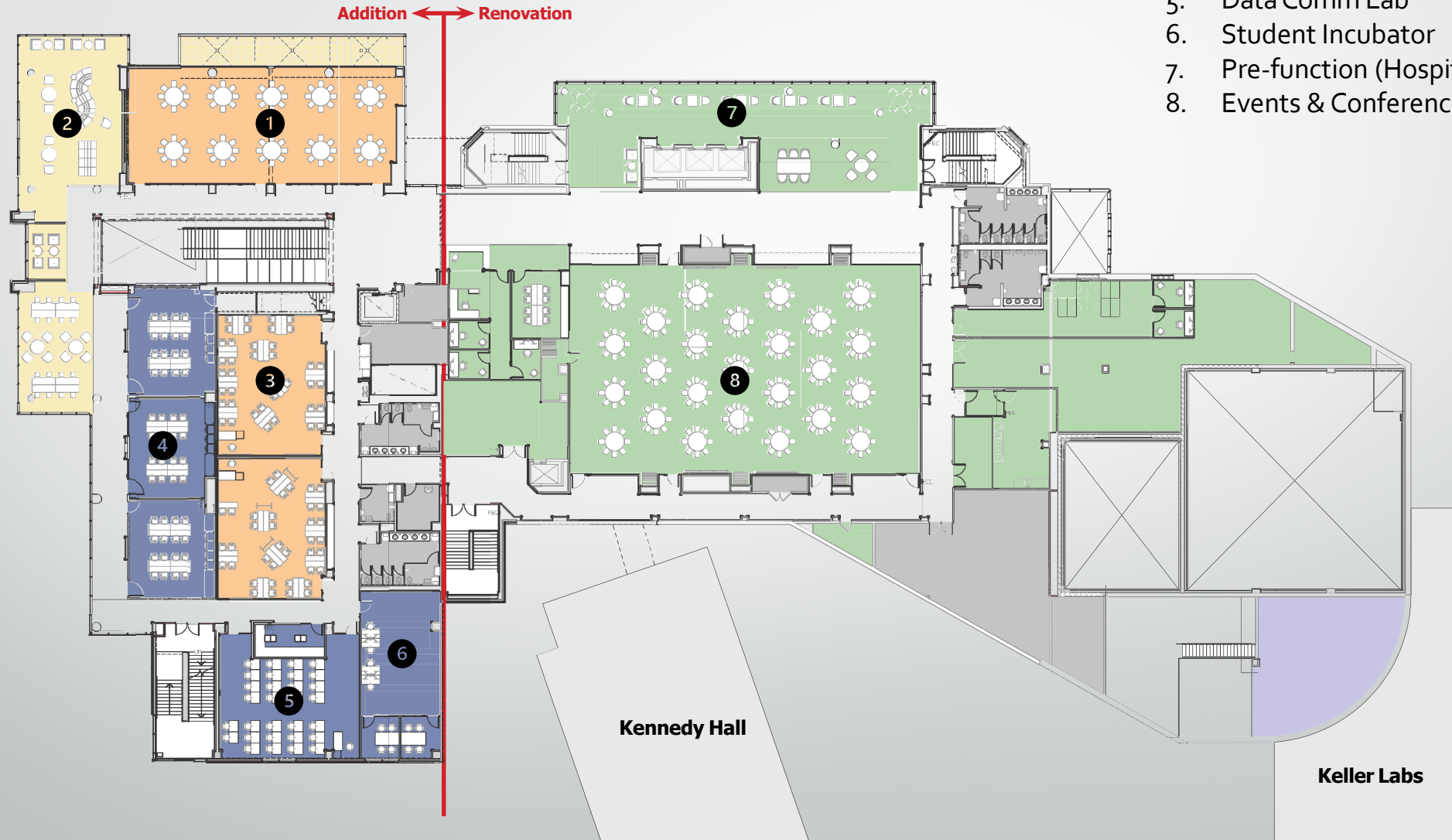
Keller Labs

Floor 2

Addition and Renovation Project

← N Not to Scale

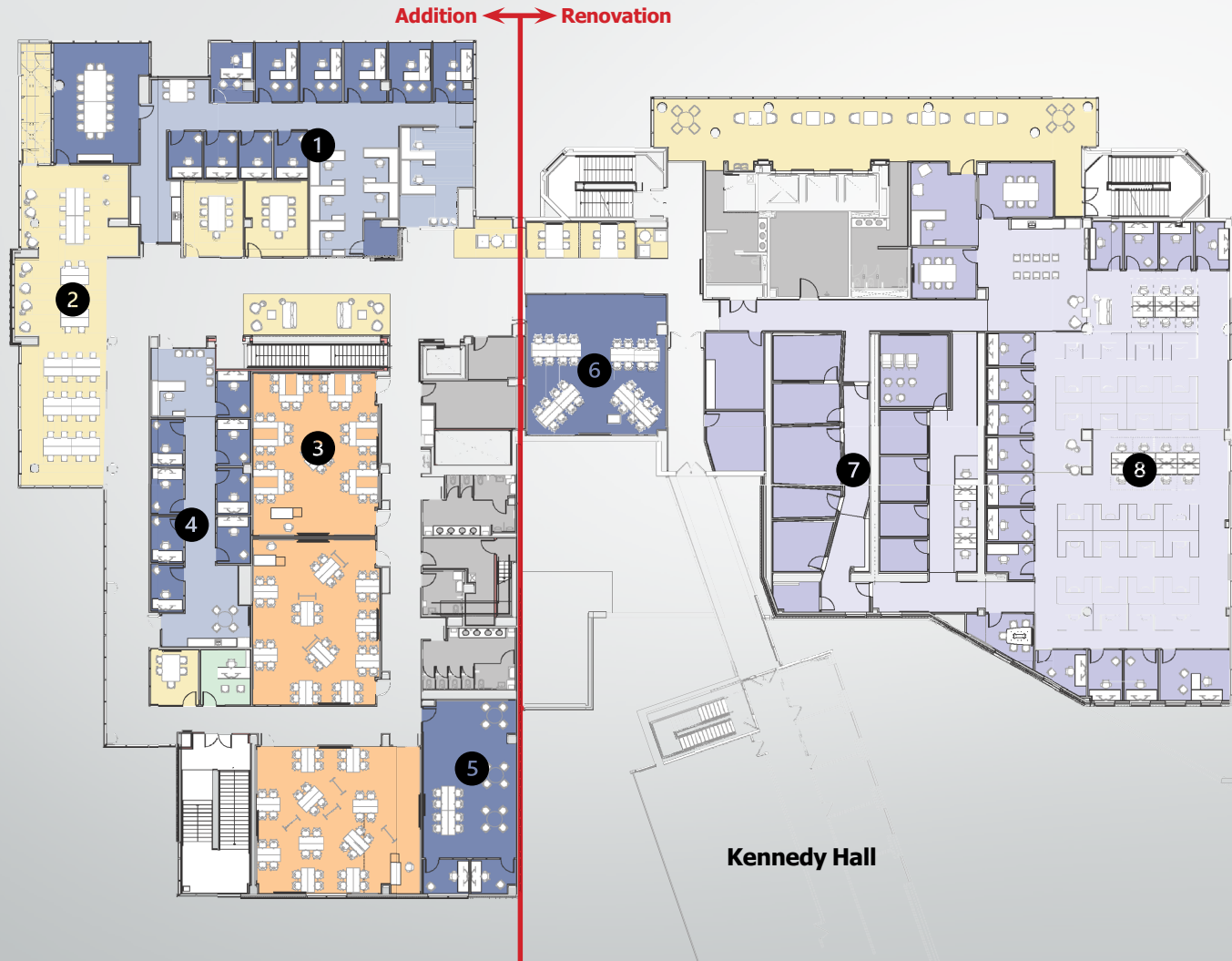
1. Multipurpose Room
2. Collaboration/Study
3. Classroom
4. Research Lab
5. Data Comm Lab
6. Student Incubator
7. Pre-function (Hospitality)
8. Events & Conference Services



Floor 3

Addition and Renovation Project

← N Not to Scale



1. Dean's Suite
2. Collaboration/Study
3. Classroom
4. Advising Center
5. Student Success Center
6. Research Hub
7. WGUV Radio Production
8. WGUV Administration

** Digital Tech Equity Suite to be located on Floor Six*

Insights from AVP Bill Cuppy

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Table Discussions



Roles at Each Table

- **Captain**: leads the table discussion
- **Recorder**: completes the qualitative survey for the table
- **Tech Specialist**: has laptop ready for Internet sharing
- **Spokesperson**: ensures thoughts from the table are reported in some fashion

Questions to Discuss (March 26)

1. In your area, what activities, initiatives or ideas relating to teaching and learning, research/creative activity, or community partnerships could be understood as part of the Blue Dot Ecosystem?
2. What support, resources, relationships, structures, or incentives would help your area participate meaningfully in the Blue Dot Ecosystem?
3. What connections across colleges, units, or external partners should be built to make the Blue Dot Ecosystem more effective?
4. What is one realistic way your area could engage in the next 6–12 months? (Or is already engaging?)

Questions to Discuss (April 7)

1. In your area, what activities, initiatives or ideas relating to teaching and learning, research/creative activity, or community partnerships could be understood as part of the Blue Dot Ecosystem?
2. What dream or wish do you have for your department or the university? Can we tie that vision into the Blue Dot Ecosystem?
3. What connections across colleges, units, or external partners should be built over the next 12 months to make the Blue Dot Ecosystem more effective?

QR Code for Qualtrics Survey

And don't forget the
Parking Lot!



<https://tinyurl.com/GVSU-BlueDot-W26>



Table Reports: Share one idea or insight from
your table with the room



Table Reports Q&A

