Growing a Learning Center: From a small, underfunded closet to a popular learning space.

The Mathematics Department tutor facility has undergone a transition from a few tutors working in a variety of spaces including a classroom, storage area, and student dining area to a large number of tutors in a multidisciplinary Learning Center with permanent space in the University Library. The center had a limited budget for tutoring that was managed by the Department Academic Assistant for many years. Several years ago, a student funded Academic Initiative fee began to support additional tutors and a Learning Center Director. An emeritus faculty member serving on an interim basis guided the evolution of the Learning Center, which is now led by a permanent director. In this presentation, the evolution of the tutoring center will be discussed by the people involved. This will include a description of the funding initiative, the development of the center with certified tutors, a new process for selecting, interviewing, and hiring student tutors as well as a continuous improvement plan. (Received September 21, 2011)