**THESIS OBJECTIVES**

Although there are abundant scholastic benefits that higher education provides students, there is a disconnect between the student and the information they process. By creating a more effective environment that redefines the pre-conceived notions of what education can be, this thesis attempts to visualize a new model for higher education.

- Improve the way higher education teaches students.
- Propose a new teaching style that allows architecture to redefine a more effective learning environment.
- Implement technological advancements in a meaningful way.
- Foster a social environment for collaboration among students.
- Analyze basic concepts of educational programming and classroom design

**SITE**

Williston, North Dakota
Williston State College
Site Area: 50,000sqft

**METHODOLOGY**

Dramatic change in education stems from the teaching method or pedagogy that is implemented in the curriculum. Currently, higher education institutions have relied upon a lecture strategy to deliver information to students and the architecture followed the needs of that pedagogy. This project will utilize active learning pedagogy to allow the architecture to embody a new direction for the programatic needs of the pedagogy.

**CLASSROOM PODS**

Active learning pedagogy is predicated upon having ultimate flexibility. Through a more involved education, students work in flux to continually drive their academic progression. My interpretation of this idea is that of classroom that can adapt as the students do. Class pods that are mobile, sound-proof, and modular give students the ability to design the space in which they learn. The design of these pods become building blocks for students arrange. An open space provides the users ultimate control and flexibility to develop the many permutations of pods that might be required.

**PRECEDENT ANALYSIS**

Acknowledging past experiments in regards to spatial planning, I took the liberty of analyzing several different case studies. Although I chose to not strictly adhere to previous design strategies in education and adaptability, this study was very informative of my own design progression.