Proposed Initiative:
To foster distinctive academic excellence via implementation of current best-practice engaged learning with 21st century innovative active learning classrooms.

Proposed by:
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What strategic goal does this initiative support?
Distinctive Academic Excellence; Global Education and Engagement; Innovation and Partnerships

Describe how the initiative supports the goal(s).
Developing a subset of active learning classrooms would showcase our goal of distinctive academic excellence by enabling instructors to teach in a way that has been shown by numerous pedagogical studies to enhance student learning. Such classrooms facilitate learning in small groups, learning by doing, and learning by explaining to one’s peers. Students within the classroom are engaged with each other, encouraging interaction among whatever demographic groupings are available. The innovation itself has been done over the past years based on research in how students learn and best retain information and apply that knowledge to other situations and this initiative would bring that innovation to UWRF.

Based on the definition of university-wide initiative, indicate how the proposed initiative has a university-wide impact.
These classrooms would be used extensively by physics and chemistry, for majors and non-majors classes, including a substantial number of students fulfilling their general education requirements. Math and Biology and Ag Science have also expressed interest in making use of such classrooms if/when they are available. I think we will be more limited by the number of such facilities that we’re able to build rather than not having enough students to take advantage of them.

Please provide a set of benchmarks and/or indicators of success to support your initiative.
We will track the number of students who are taught in these classrooms. We will survey these students to gather feedback on their experiences. We will track such indicators as the DFW rates and/or retention rates of students who use these classrooms and compare these to students who have not used these classrooms. We will compare such data to similar data for similar classrooms nationally.

What elements are involved in the initiative?
Sustainability, Inclusiveness, Human Capital, Facilities, Finance
Indicate how each element would be/would not be affected by the initiative.

- **Sustainability**: Such classrooms model sustainability as being able to engage a relatively large classroom of students in much more hands-on activity than is typically possible in a traditional fixed seat, passive, lone instructor up front lecture hall.

- **Inclusiveness**: Inclusiveness is enhanced via frequent interaction among students working collaboratively in small groups.

- **Human Capital**: Human Capital is involved in faculty and student assistants teaching in these classrooms, but not necessarily any more than are already involved with teaching the same number of students. An additional person, such as a specialist in active learning, may be beneficial depending on the number of classrooms to help with faculty development for such pedagogies.

- **Technology**: Technology is involved in the laptops or tablets needed for each group and the large flat screens for each larger table (typically three groups of three per table), along with the instructor station and hardware/software needed to allow for showing of any screen on all other screens.

- **Facilities**: Facilities are crucial in that the active learning space needs to be remodeled, and such spaces are available amidst various buildings on campus.

- **Finance**: Finance is involved in acquiring the funds to purchase the technology and remodel the existing space to accommodate active learning.

- **Other:**