

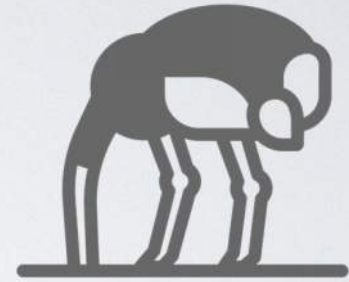
# SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT-CENTERED EDUCATION

Sure, sounds good, how do we play?

Alessandra Ferzoco, Olin College of Engineering, March 14, 2023



I trained and lived for a long time perfectly content to keep my head stuck in the lab



I remain unclear on what it means to be an expert



Sustainability

Project-Based Learning  
(Do-Learn)



Sustainability

Project-Based Learning  
(Do-Learn)

Impact-  
Centered  
Education



Who are the people?

What are the projects?

Who decides who and what?

What level of risk is acceptable to different students?

# Who are the people?

How much do students need to know when they enroll?

# What are the projects?

Who should pay and what should it cost?

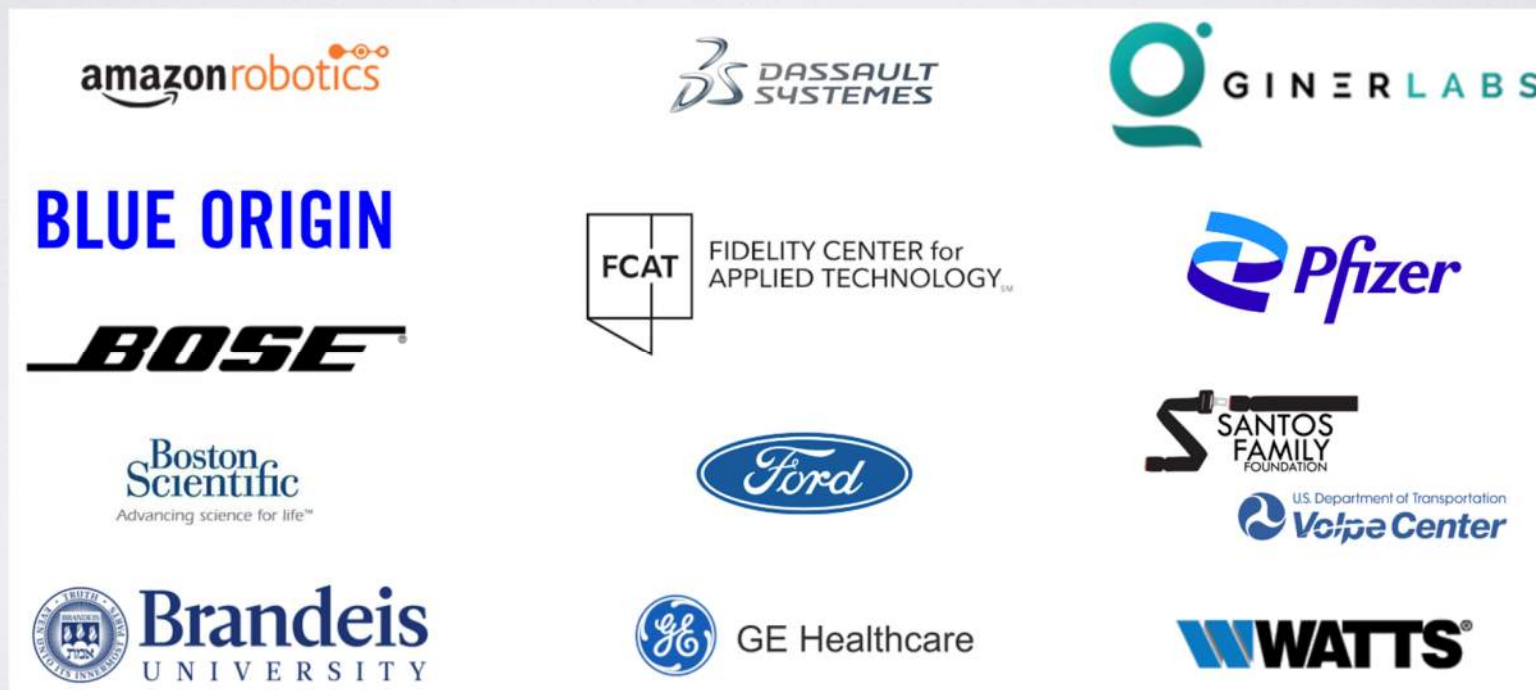
Who defines what success and failure means?

How might students display all facets of this kind of experience to potential employers?

# I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT 2 EXAMPLES

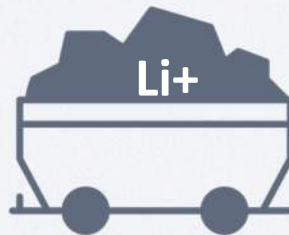
- A course where projects are initiated by external partners
- A course where faculty initiate project spaces

# OLIN SENIOR CAPSTONE (SCOPE)





# HOW MIGHT YOU DECIDE...



# NO REALLY, HOW? HELP ME OUT...

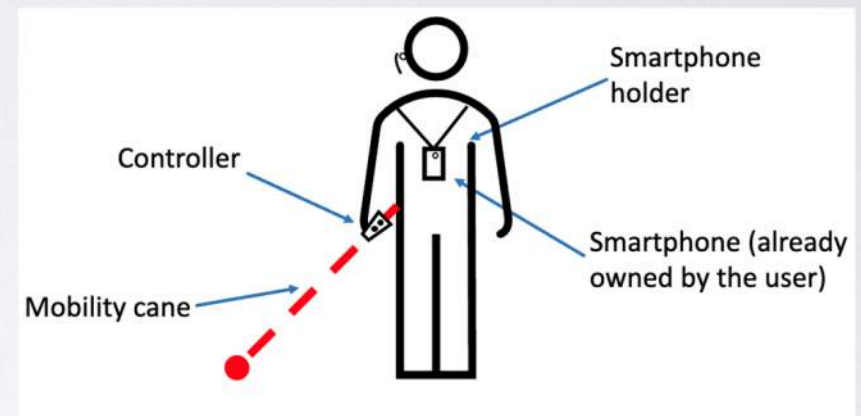
- Do you have any frameworks or resources you think about when deciding where to draw a line for projects you won't do, or deciding between options?
- What rights (or entitlements) do you think students should have in this process?
- Our students are your future colleagues. What experiences do you hope they bring with them?

# FACULTY COLLABORATION WITHIN A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN A COLLEGE

- Transformative education
- Change the financial model for higher education
- Provide a social good unmet by current market forces

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We are building a controller and software system to support the independence of blind and visually impaired folks by solving the "last 100 steps" of navigation

# DO YOU KNOW OF AREAS IN NEED OF DEVELOPMENT THAT...

- Sound fun
- Hinge on transdisciplinary skills and integration
- Serve to illuminate the systems that drive our society
- Leverage existing technologies combined or applied in new ways
- Might not be profitable enough to capture the attention of commercial players or fill short term gaps in the market
- Have some of the features y'all clever people brought up in the earlier prompt

Thanks for your attention and thought partnership

If you'd like to stir up some fun trouble, please get in touch: [aferzoco@olin.edu](mailto:aferzoco@olin.edu)