



Current State of Research and Practice in Digital Learning

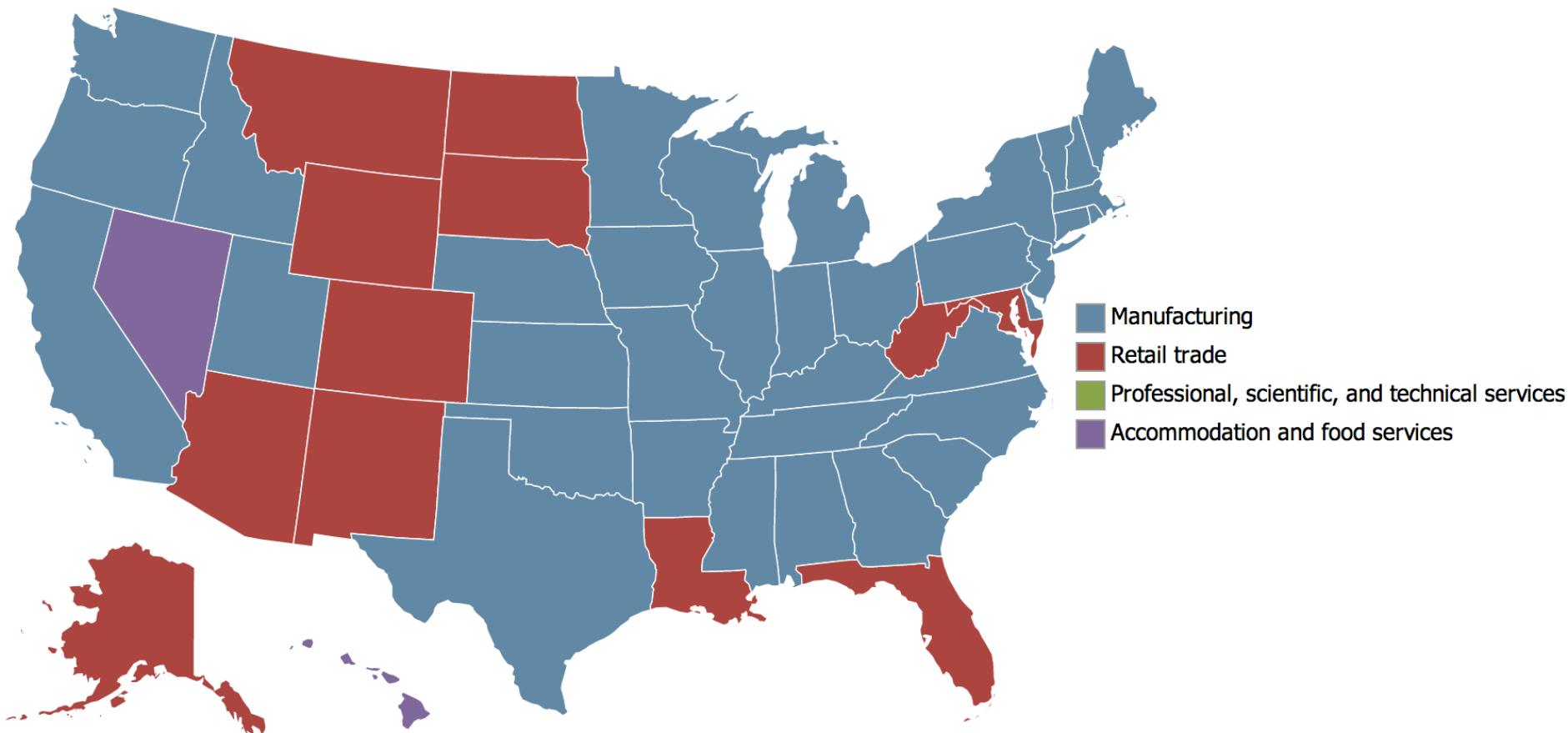
George Siemens, PhD

IHPE

November 16, 2017

Major industries with highest employment, by state 1990

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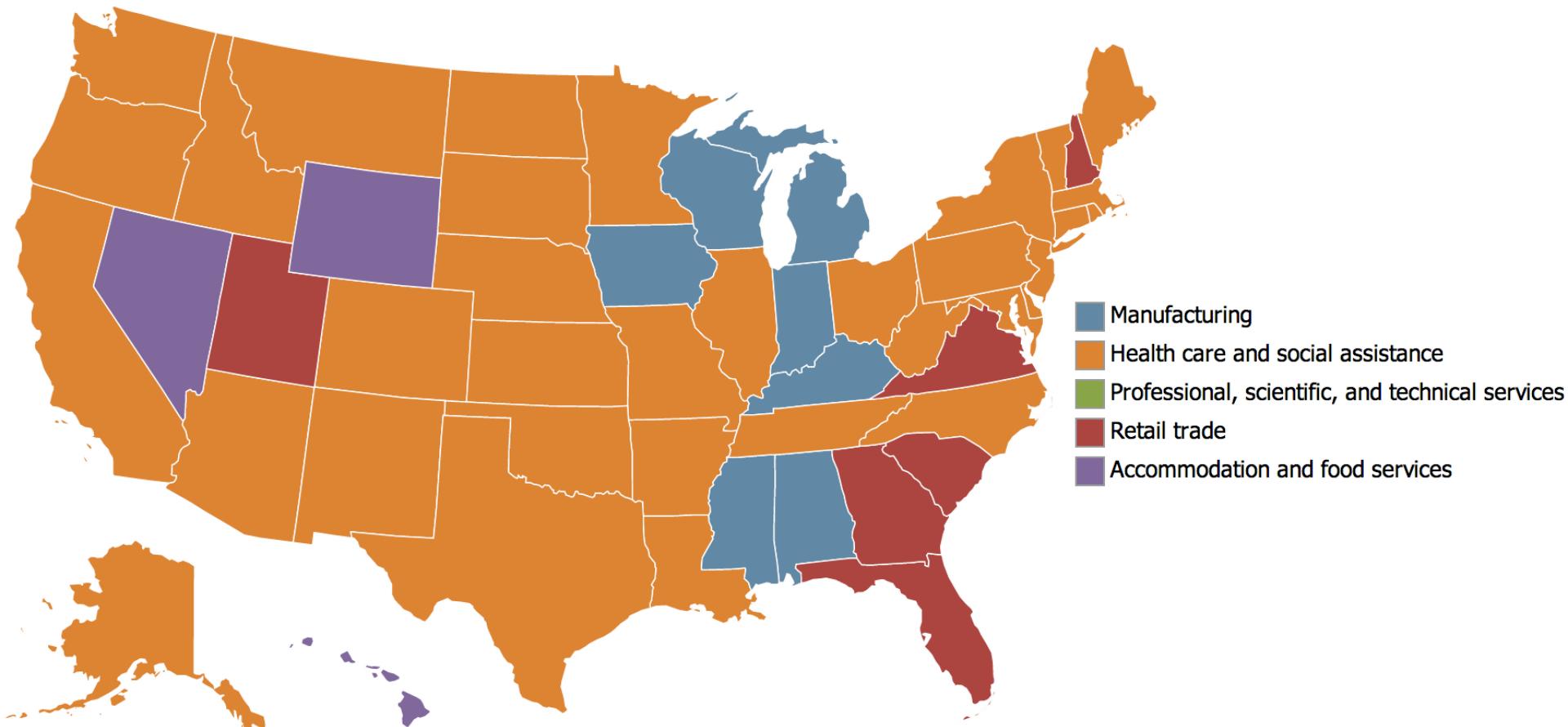


Hover over a state to see information.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Major industries with highest employment, by state 2013

Play Pause << < > >>



Hover over a state to see information.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Favours women over men

More learners as % (up to 60%)

Average entrance age increasing

Top three countries for entering students:

China, India, USA

Traditional science courses waning in popularity

Greater international student

OECD 2013

Complexification of higher education

Learning needs are complex, ongoing

Simple singular narrative won't suffice going forward

The **idea of the university (and learning)** is expanding and diversifying

Enter digital learning...

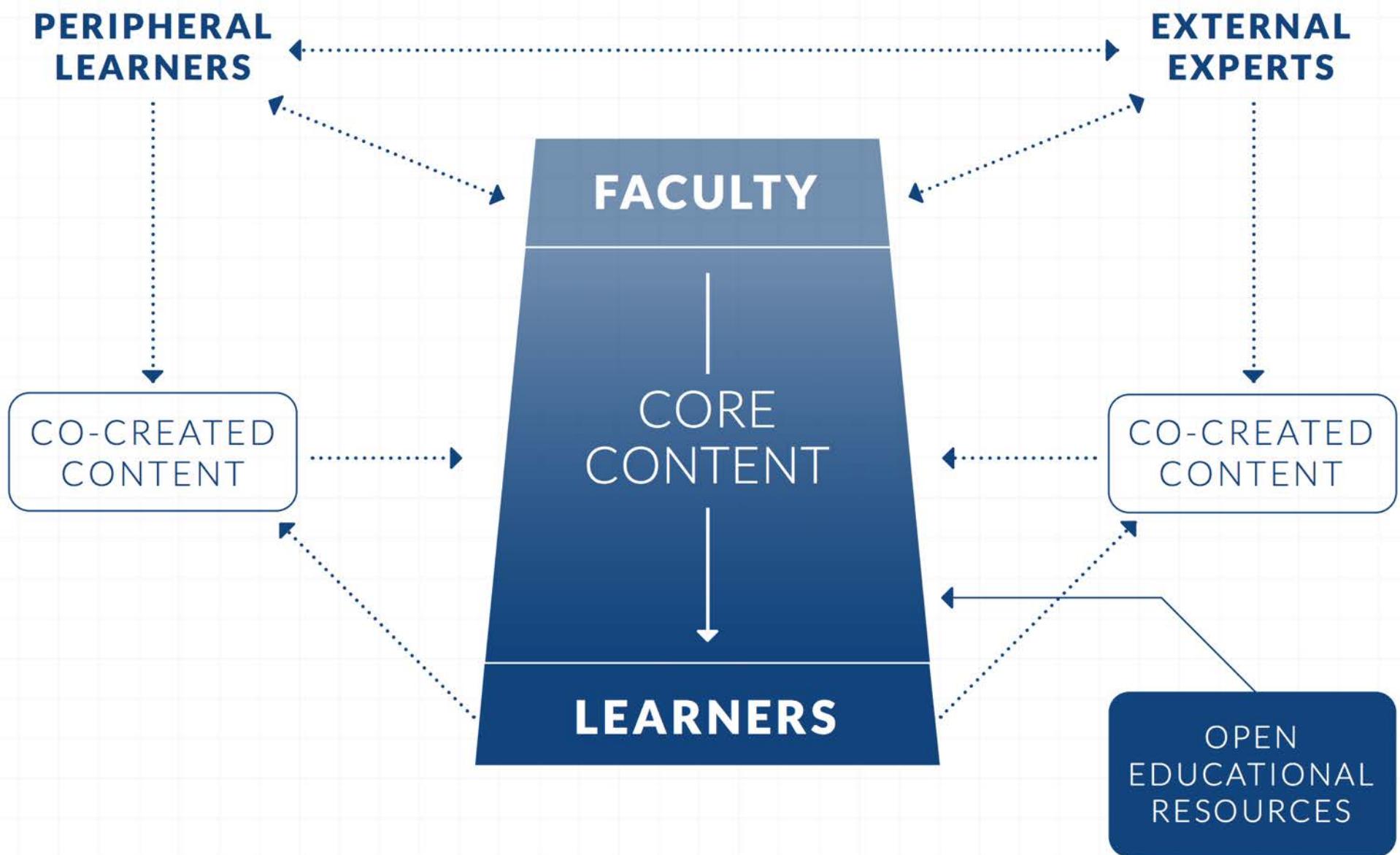
**Self-regulated, self-selected,
self-directed learning**

Social media, MOOCs, community
knowledge spaces

FACULTY

CORE
CONTENT

LEARNER



Traditional
Sequential
Course

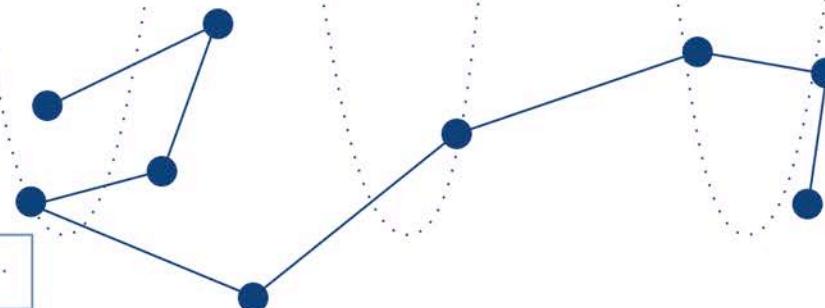
→ Lecture/content → Activities → Assessment → Credential

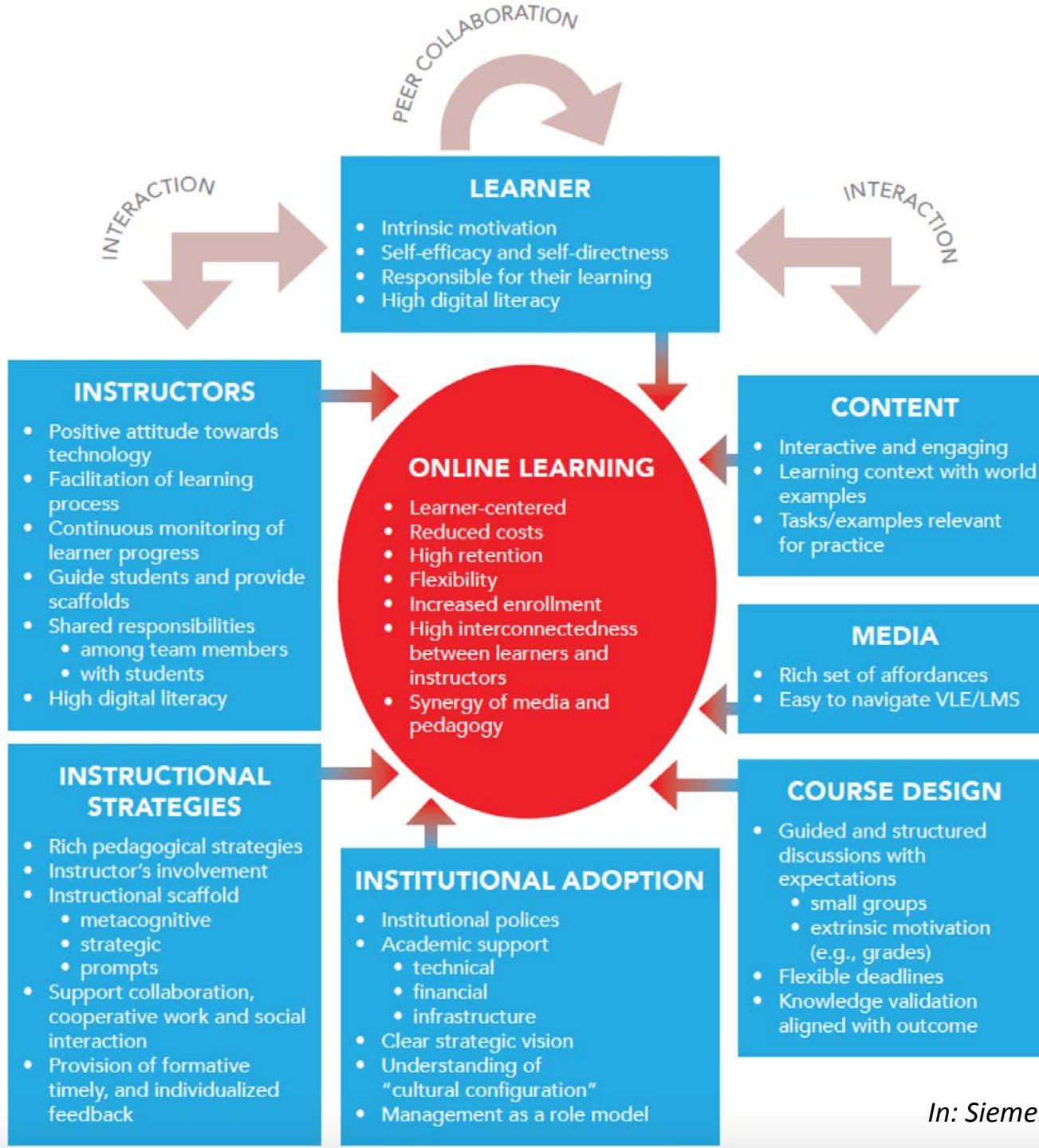
LINEAR INSTRUCTION TIMELINE

Connective
Knowledge

OSCILATING
LEARNING
PATH

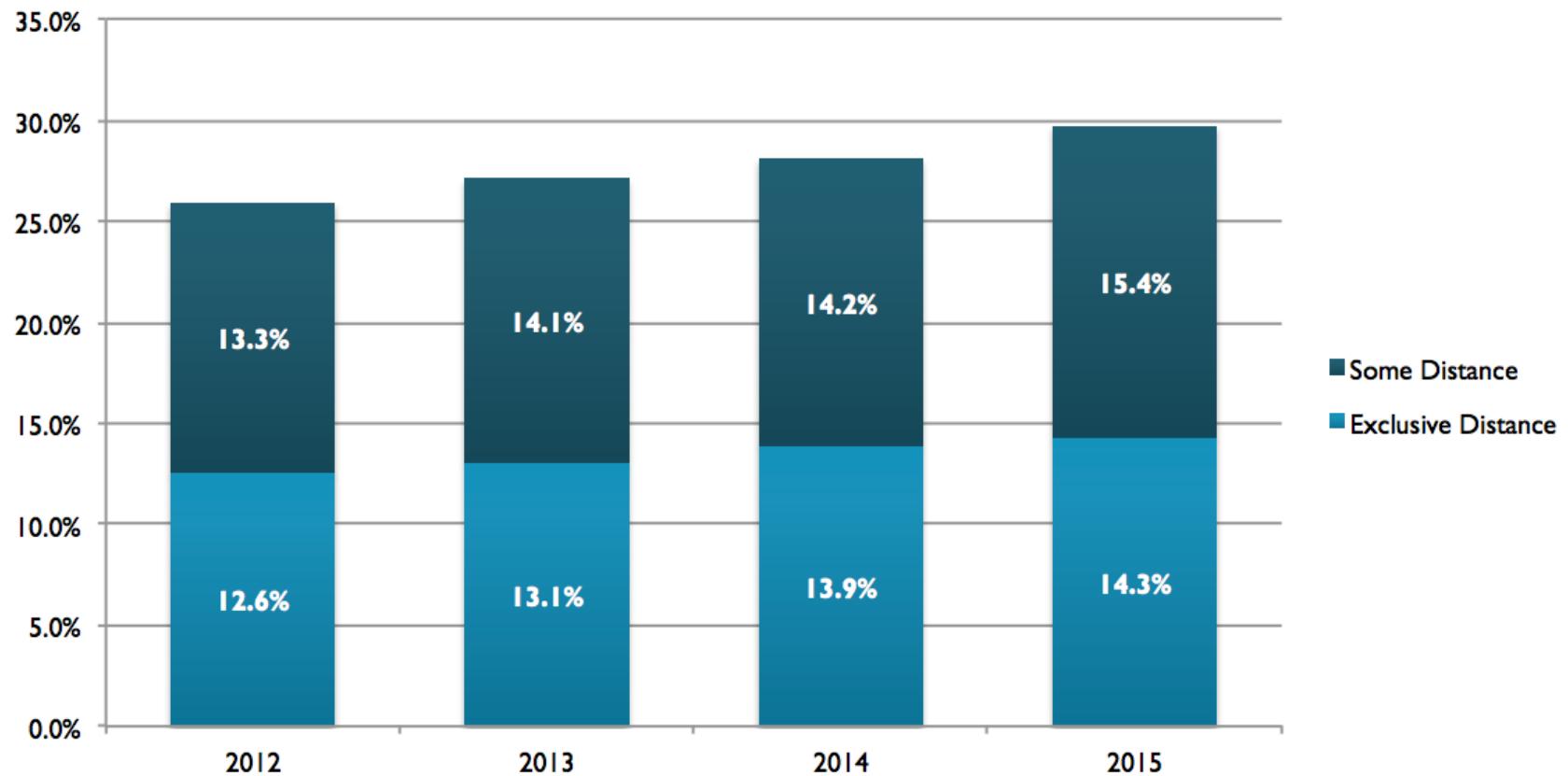
NETWORKED
SOCIAL
KNOWLEDGE
CREATION





In: Siemens, Gasevic, & Dawson (eds), 2015

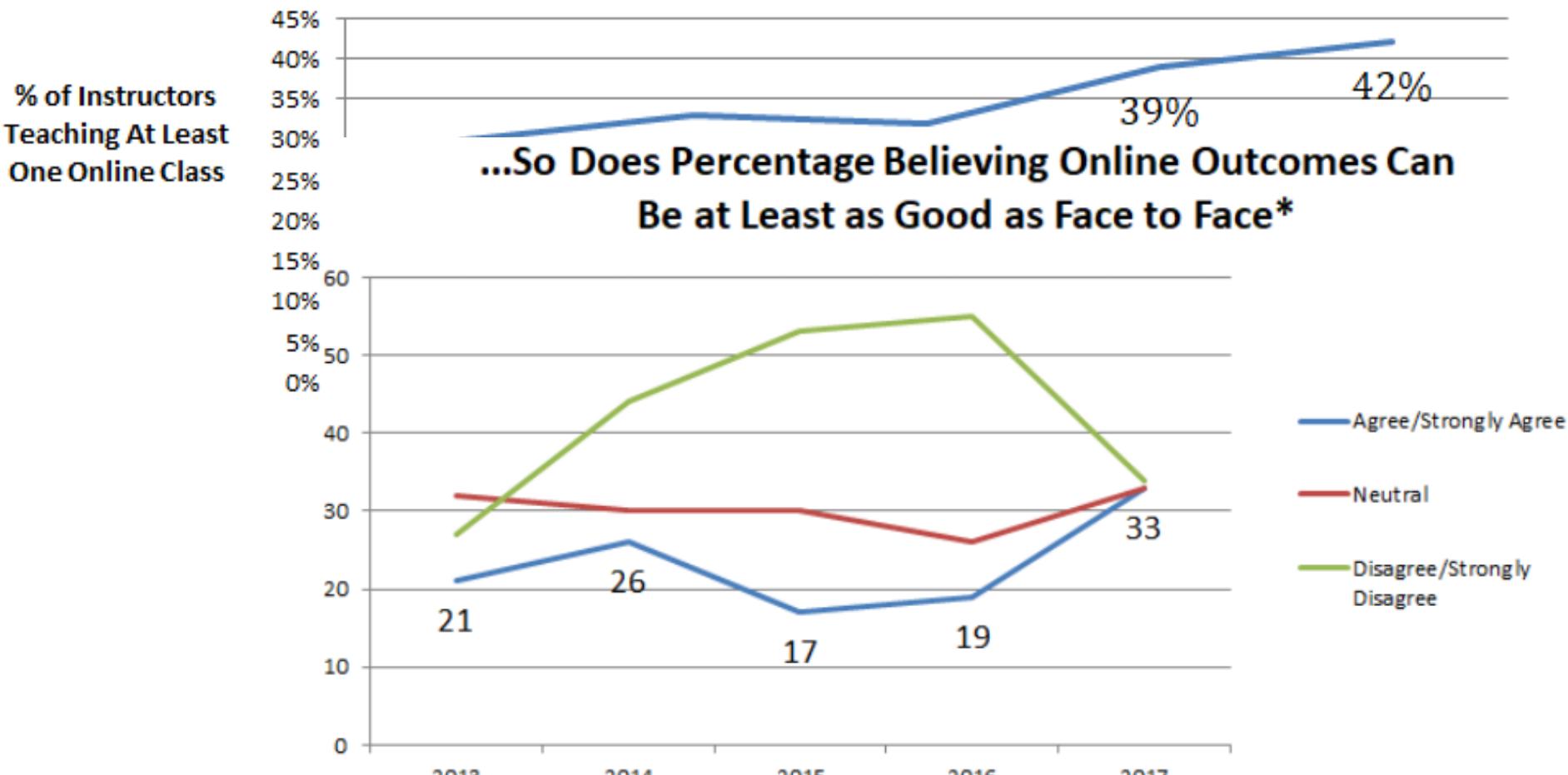
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE COURSES - 2012-2015



“Forty-two percent of professors say they have taught an online course, and 36 percent have taught a blended or hybrid course. The proportion of faculty members who have taught an online course has increased from 30 percent to 42 percent since 2013.”

2017 Survey of Faculty Attitudes on Technology

As Proportion of Professors Teaching Online Rises...



*Question posed: "For-credit online courses can achieve student learning outcomes at least equivalent to those of in-person courses at any institution."

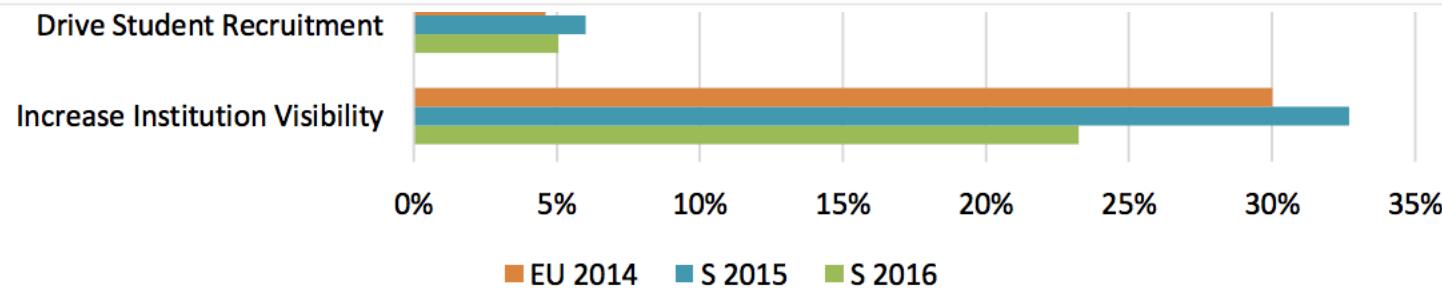
Primary objectives



Report: 59% of employed data scientists learned skills on their own or via a MOOC

Data scientists are in high demand and short supply, but they may not need a degree in computer science to get a job, according to a new report from Kaggle.

By Alison DeNisco Rayome | October 30, 2017, 9:00 AM PST



F Figure 11: Primary objectives to offer a MOOC (S016) in comparison with responses from previous surveys (EU 2014, S2015)

Human and machine intelligence

How do these interact in the future of higher education?

Important to know what works where

Ineffective to

- Scale through humans what should be scaled through technology
 - Inferring and detecting knowledge and other key aspects of learner
- Trying to scale through technology what should be scaled by humans
 - Intervening on deep misconceptions or in the face of disengagement

Move to “modern” learning
models/needs



NETWORKED
KNOWLEDGE

COMBINATORIAL
CREATIVITY

in order for us to truly create and contribute to the world, we have to be able to connect countless dots, to cross-pollinate ideas from a wealth of disciplines, to **combine and recombine** these pieces and build new castles.

Maria Popova

Knowledge development, learning, is (should be) concerned with **learners understanding relationships**, not simply memorizing facts.

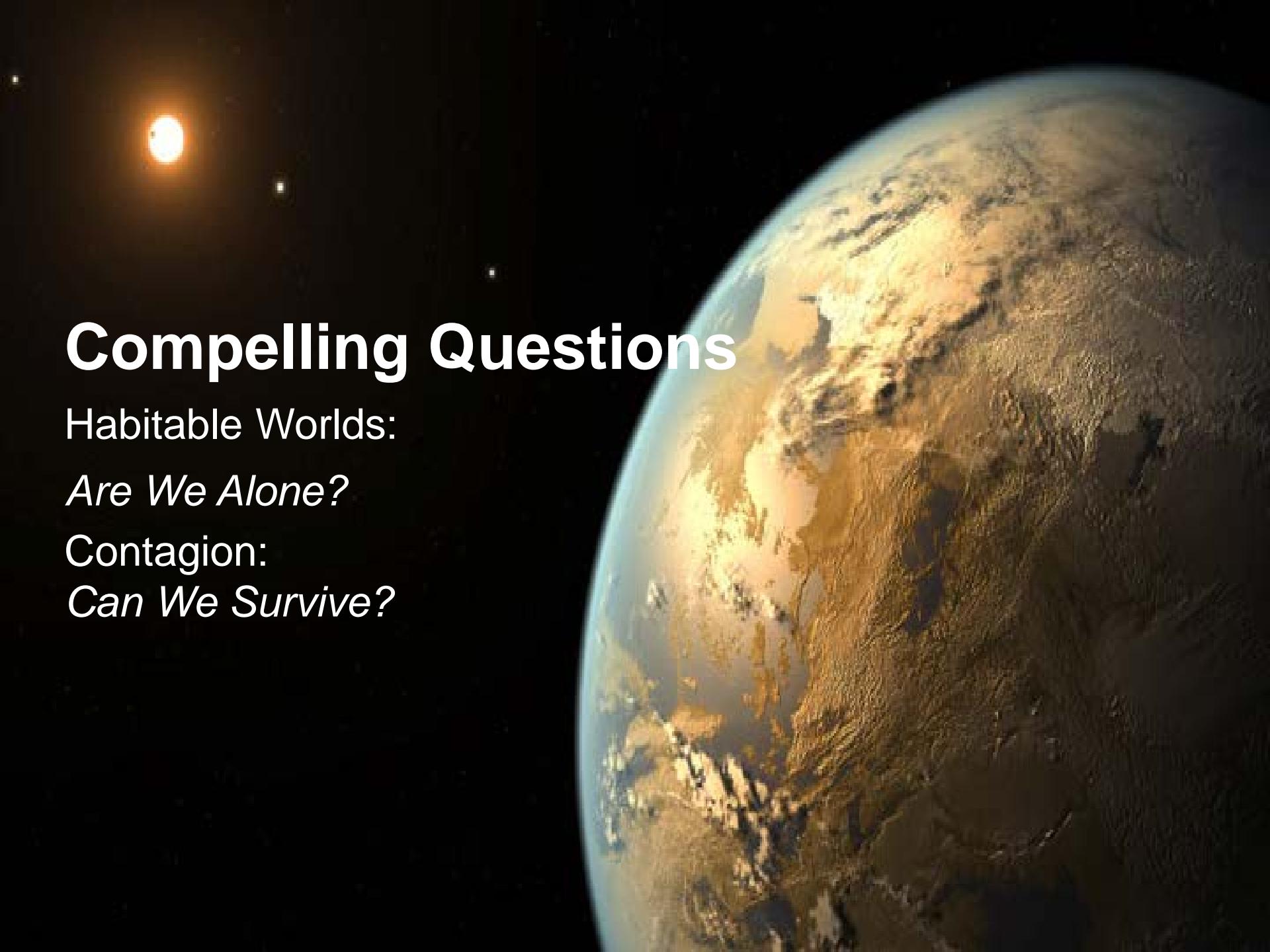
i.e. naming nodes is “low level” knowledge activity, understanding node connectivity, and implications of changes in network structure, consists of deeper, coherent, learning



Exploration

Learning is the exploration of the unknown...

... not just mastery of what is already known.



Compelling Questions

Habitable Worlds:

Are We Alone?

Contagion:

Can We Survive?

Transdisciplinary

A photograph of four large, weathered metal silos standing in a field. The silos are cylindrical with ribbed sides and conical roofs. The first silo on the left has the word "Geology" written vertically on its side. The second silo from the left has "Astronomy" written vertically. The third silo has "Physics" written vertically. The fourth silo on the right has "Chemistry" written vertically. In the background, there is a white barn and a red tractor. The sky is clear and blue.

Geology

Astronomy

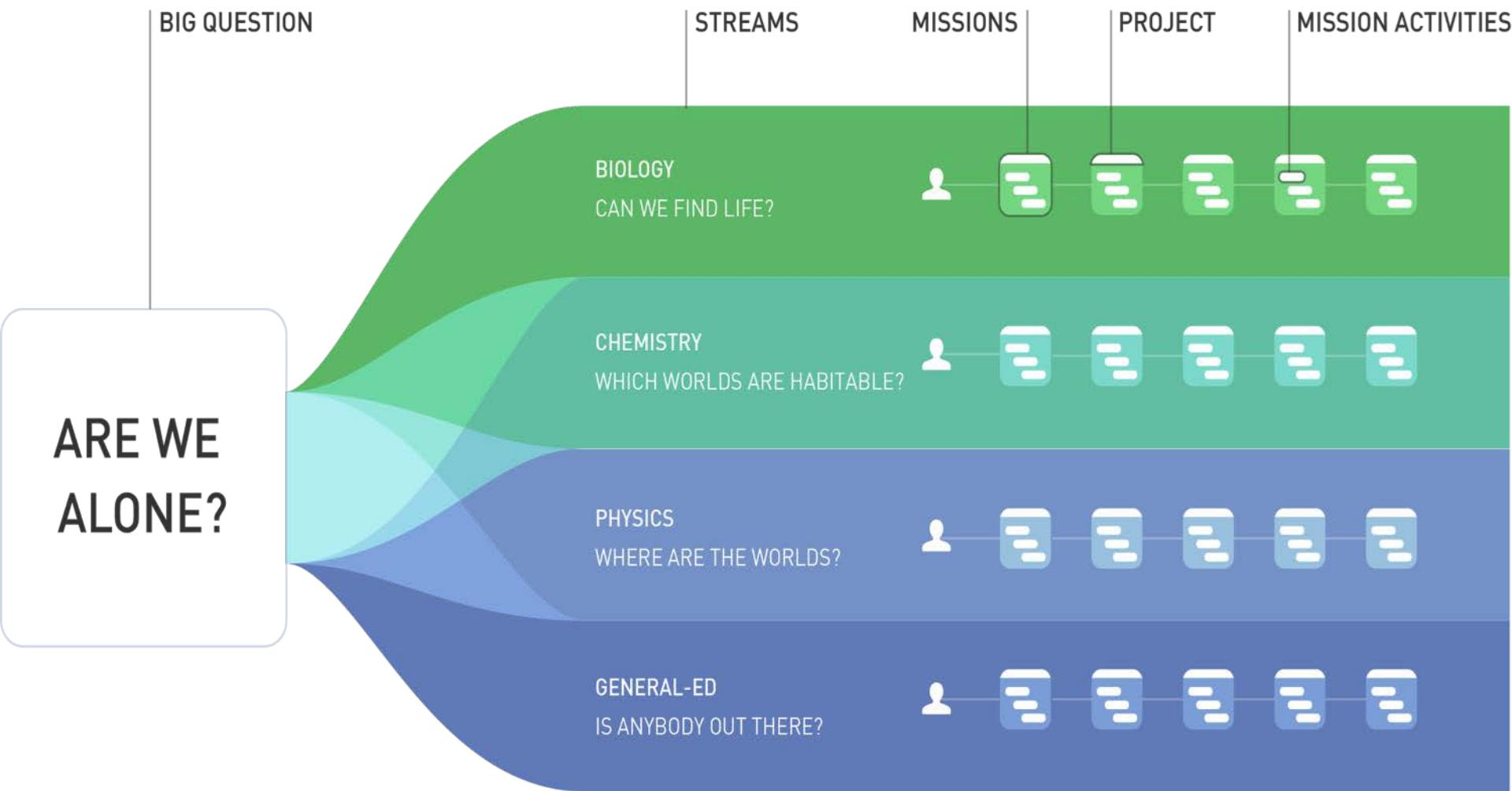
Physics

Chemistry

Biology

The questions we care about don't fit in silos

Smart Courses



Challenges for online learning

Systemic integration

Incorporation of scaffolded support

Learner profile management