

The Future of Learning—Today.

Education is changing, so izzy+ keeps learning.

Problem-solving isn't just about sitting in comfortable chairs and putting on thinking caps. At izzy+, when we want to figure something out we leave our offices and head out to **look, listen, and engage.**

That's exactly how we researched higher education. Three izzy+ researchers* hit the road:
+ racking up over **300,000** frequent flier miles
+ visiting **23** colleges and universities,
+ sparking conversations with more than **300** people,

* Researchers stayed alert thanks to **47** or so grande-size coffees. (In case you're curious, they avoided all college parties, so our campus research only resulted in a few minor casualties: **3** parking tickets, **2** lost bags and **1** fender bender.)



Looking back at Socrates to see what's ahead for education

The more we listened to professors, the more we heard about the Socratic Method of teaching and learning. While at first it sounds like a lot of heady lingo, as we dug in we saw that it's all about the things izzy+ has loved and championed from the start: inquiry and debate, questions and conversation, and the ability to all grow our minds together.

In other words, Socratic teaching is focused first on people, not books or information or technology.



Research Findings

Going to the source to discover what works

We saw a little bit of everything as we traveled the country — mountains and oceans, small Midwestern college campuses and big urban universities deftly set on traffic-jammed streets.

But some universal themes definitely emerged, whether we were at Worcester Technical High School, Duke University or South Puget Sound Community College, talking to people majoring in computer science or teaching political science.

What We Discovered:



Students everywhere know they can get all of the facts and information they need on the Internet. But they also know there's a reason to come together in a classroom, a lounge or cafe. Turning facts into knowledge is a journey—one that involves interaction with instructors and other students. They want that journey to be meaningful and applicable.



Instructors know they are responsible for guiding the journey—making sure real learning cuts through the noise and impacts students' lives. As we talked to professors, we kept hearing a word we love: collaboration. Students, it turns out, need lots of it—to gain understanding, to retain what they've learned, and ultimately to apply it.



Facility managers are responsible for the spaces, places and tools necessary for teaching and learning. We wanted to know exactly what they care about, and they told us: Education products need to be Big Ten linebacker-proof—the ultimate in durability and clean-ability. Furniture that works hard also needs to be adaptable, and must support and protect technology.