



Welcome to a new academic year. I am well into my first year in the Center and it has been an absolute joy to work with the staff, I have learned so much from each of them. We have developed a great working relationship and have planned exciting programming for the upcoming academic year. First, I would like to introduce you to our new blog “At the Center.” This blog will feature insights on best practices, updates on what is happening in the field, and general information on center events. You can look forward to reading bi-monthly blogs with new information about all things teaching and learning.

This spring, the entire office participated in a strategic planning session and during this session, we considered who we were and what we wanted to accomplish. This planning allowed us to collectively revisit our mission statement, vision statement, and core values.

With this reimagining of the center, through strategic planning, we have changed the name of the center to the “Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning” (CETL) [pronounced SEE- tul]. There are several reasons for this change, which are outlined below.

First, we recognize that the dominant paradigm in higher education is teaching and learning, and we relish the opportunity to encourage

pedagogical excellence. We do this by encouraging faculty members to employ methods in the classroom that will improve their teaching and hence student learning. We spend considerable time thinking about ways that we can encourage faculty to develop evidence-based teaching practices. In our programming, we employ several innovative methods to achieve these ends. However, what we recognized in revisiting our mission is that our current title the “Center for Academic Innovation” fully captures neither the mission nor the vision of the center.

Secondly, the Center for Academic Innovation has an interesting history on campus, we are known for our excellence in preparing faculty to teach online. We will continue to offer online training based on the application of the Quality Matters Rubric. However, we also want to be known more broadly, as the place where faculty come to explore their teaching and its impact on student learning.

Finally, we are excited to announce that we are integrating Adjunct Faculty Support Programs into our work. It is our desire that the integration of adjunct faculty will allow us to incorporate adjunct faculty into the larger faculty community. Changing our name to The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) allows us to identify ourselves as the

## Welcome to the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning

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location for all things regarding teaching and learning, for all who are engaged in teaching and learning.

In terms of programming, we have been planning and preparing for another productive and exciting year on campus. We have used the spring and summer semesters to plan for your return, the theme for our workshops this year is “Student Success: Making Coursework Relevant.” This workshop series is designed to be interactive and encourage participants to think about how to integrate workshop content into their courses. In addition, we have recruited 25 faculty members to participate in our inaugural Faculty Learning Communities (FLC). This group will start their work, exploring experiential learning, in Fall 2021 through Winter 2022. We are looking to start recruiting for the next FLC in Winter 2022, reach out to our office if you are interested in participating or just want to know more. The annual symposium will be held on February 18, 2022, with an exciting new format, more information on this is forthcoming. There are so many great things happening in the office: we will publish a monthly newsletter, a bi-monthly blog “At The Center,” we are launching new online training, looking for faculty interested in scholarship on teaching and learning, and various partnerships with offices across campus.

We would like to encourage you to make an appointment for a consultation or simply stop by to check out what is new in the Center. We are looking forward to a productive year.

## Our Mission & Vision

The mission of the Center is to promote a culture of educational excellence that enhances faculty success through supporting research-based teaching, learning, and scholarship. The vision of the CETL is to foster a culture of pedagogical excellence.

### Core Values

- 1 We value innovation in teaching that engages students in learning.
- 2 We are committed to developing inclusive teaching, scholarship, and professional development that foster diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- 3 We promote evidence-based practices that improve Teaching and Learning and contribute to student success.
- 4 We are dedicated to experiential learning.

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