Dear Colleagues,

The past year has been a busy and exciting time for our center as we had the distinct pleasure of partnering and serving faculty from every academic unit across UB.

The relationships we build with faculty and our partner units at UB are essential to fulfilling our mission to positively impact student success through the art of teaching and the science of learning. On a daily basis CEI staff are engaged with faculty, teaching assistants, library and instructional staff collaborating to bring the best to our UB students.

Our center provides comprehensive training, developed in-house and aligned to a faculty curriculum. CEI also oversees the learning systems vital to extending the reach of our classrooms to remote and online environments. Our center also provides innovative pedagogy and flexible space workshops and consultations, as well as conducts contemporary research in key areas of need such as the impact of faculty development on student success.

As this year progressed, like all other areas of the university, CEI was greatly impacted by the global emergency of this spring. As such, this impact report highlights the central work of our team throughout the 2019–20 academic year, culminating in our center’s emergency efforts to help transition UB’s faculty to online instruction.

Sincerely,

Christine T. Kroll, PhD
Assistant Vice Provost
Director, Center for Educational Innovation
Providing the campus with expertise in pedagogy, design and interactive learning, regardless of delivery method, as our university leadership works to navigate the ever-changing landscape and uncertain trajectory of higher education.

Launching the university’s first fully-scaled faculty development model, the CEI Academies, researched and written on-site, which allows for future training and strategic partnerships with the academic and administrative units.

Ensuring UB students and faculty have access to course materials before and after class via our learning systems, which include UB Learns, UB Clicks, Respondus Monitor, Ally and Safe Assign.

Leading the charge through efforts like: overseeing research projects, delivering papers and presentations, centralizing institutional membership opportunities, and emerging as the hub for learning systems and design at UB.

CEI is where the art of teaching meets the science of learning.

2019–2020 Highlights

1. Providing the campus with expertise in pedagogy, design and interactive learning, regardless of delivery method, as our university leadership works to navigate the ever-changing landscape and uncertain trajectory of higher education.

2. Launching the university’s first fully-scaled faculty development model, the CEI Academies, researched and written on-site, which allows for future training and strategic partnerships with the academic and administrative units.

3. Ensuring UB students and faculty have access to course materials before and after class via our learning systems, which include UB Learns, UB Clicks, Respondus Monitor, Ally and Safe Assign.

4. Leading the charge through efforts like: overseeing research projects, delivering papers and presentations, centralizing institutional membership opportunities, and emerging as the hub for learning systems and design at UB.
President Tripathi updates the university community on emergency preparedness monitoring and planning.

CEI announces the launching of a new Teaching Beyond the Campus webpage in order to serve faculty in emergency contingency course planning. CEI also announces an adjusted faculty consultation schedule in order to accommodate growing faculty needs.

President Tripathi announces that UB will begin implementing distance learning measures wherever possible.
Governor Cuomo announces that all SUNY institutions will be required to maximize distance learning measures on all campuses, effective March 23, 2020. President Tripathi announces this news to the university community.

11

CEI announces a new schedule of faculty workshops to assist during this emergency transition. Approximately 300 faculty respond!

11

CEI communicates with the deans to spread the word about the faculty sessions and also to build a network of faculty support throughout the campus.

13

CEI also directly solicits expert volunteers to help with assisting faculty at our own sessions.

16

CEI begins hosting in-person faculty sessions in compliance with state guidelines for in-person gatherings.

17

CEI announces that faculty consults will move online in order to ensure greater safety for faculty seeking assistance with instruction.
40+ Volunteers from throughout the academic units and offices assisted through Emergency Course Building Sessions.

16 CEI staff and 30+ volunteers from throughout the academic units and offices.

Fully online faculty consults begin, ensuring that all faculty are able to seek assistance in the safest possible way – paving the way for faculty to be prepared to return to teaching classes upon return from spring break.

The university’s faculty return from spring break and resume classes via new distance learning guidelines and new remote technologies and practices. The university perseveres!

CEI works in collaboration with other central offices and administrators to offer a multi-week Online Teaching Web Series in order to help faculty continue to adopt and enhance their courses through the end of the semester.

1500+ consults over a five-week period in the spring 2020 semester.

300 faculty served in the first 10 days

Supporting our UB faculty in teaching our UB students!
During the 2019–20 academic year, the CEI Academies started off as a faculty development initiative in response to the overwhelming need for support in teaching and learning across campus. Little did we know that the CEI Academies would serve the deeper purpose of proactively preparing the university for the emergency transition to remote learning this spring.

1. 280 faculty completed the CEI Academies.
2. Our cohort learning model allowed us to scale the CEI Academies through just a handful of learning designers.
3. The CEI Academies served all academic units on campus.
4. The CEI Academies served a variety of purposes for faculty including: immediate remediation in teaching and pedagogy, learning new strategies to enhance course delivery and learning new educational technology skills.
5. The New Faculty Academy, in partnership with University Libraries and also the vice provost for faculty affairs, not only brought these resources to incoming faculty, but also helped introduce them to the university more broadly.
The research and development team leads CEI’s Drive to 25 initiative. Aligned with center values, CEI is strategically positioning our programming and research to attract top AAU centers to partnering with CEI. This year, our research and development staff have been successful in the following key projects and initiatives.

1. Researching, writing and continually improving the UB faculty curriculum.
2. Creating, piloting and collecting feedback and data on existing and emerging academies.
3. Securing seed funding, such as SUNY IITG and OER grants to support initial research efforts on our in-house Faculty Academies model.
4. Developing an open dissemination model for our proprietary content in an effort to grow our reputation in our Drive to 25 initiative.
5. Disseminating research and partnering with fellow AAU centers on large-scale grants designed to impact the future of education.

Design and Teach for Online

Design & Build Online Courses
- Course Design
- Course Framework
- Course Creation
- Student Interactions

Evaluate & Teach Online Courses
- Evaluation Tools
- OSCQR Rubric
- Learning Community
- Student Success

Launching Summer 2020
Design and Teach for Online Academies
Learn and build in each session. Available on-site in your department or via Zoom.

July and August & Winter Session
Bootcamps: 4 sessions in 1 week at 2-3 hours each.

Fall and Spring
Attend 1x per week; starts at the beginning of each month. Each session lasts 2-3 hours to ensure building help is available.
CEI’s Learning Systems team plays a vital role in the university’s academic mission through the system administration and direct end-user support for two essential services: UB Learns and UB Clicks.

1. Administered over 3000 UB Learns courses per semester in fall 2019 and spring 2020.

2. Currently overseeing the adoption of Blackboard’s Ultra Experience in UB Learns, with a target date for full implementation set for spring 2021.

3. Supported several vendor and third-party integrations that extend the use and functionality of UB Learns.

4. Provided regular phone, email and walk-in support to faculty, staff and students who are using UB Learns.

5. Offered a number of resources to faculty, staff and students who are using UB Clicks.

6. Directly supported our faculty during the emergency transition this spring.
Learning Design & Programs

CEI’s Learning Design Team provides the backbone for our regular programming, which is intended to serve the faculty, teaching assistants, library and instructional staff. Their expertise contributes to the development, coordination and implementation of the following:

1. Our full CEI Academies schedule.
2. The Educational Technology and Pedagogy Showcases, which highlight various educational innovations in our new Faculty Collaboration Studio.
3. Maker Days Programming, which supplements the CEI Academies through step-by-step training on in-demand topics.
4. The Research Collaboration Happy Hour, which brings faculty together from throughout the university to network and share ideas.
5. The Artificial and Virtual Reality Professional Community of Practice, in partnership with the University Libraries, to explore and discuss the use of immersive environments in education.
6. Emergency sessions and ongoing support to assist faculty during the emergency transition this spring.
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### Learning Paradigms

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CEI Staff Directory
By Team

Administration

Christine Kroll
Assistant Vice Provost and Director

John Wild
Associate Director

Joanna Young
Office Manager

Communications & Marketing

Daniel Kelly
Assistant Director of Communications & Marketing

Jeremy Cooper
Content Development Specialist

Incubation

Lauren Bruzga
Project Development Strategist

Christopher Rates
Project Development Strategist

Athena Tsembelis
Project Development Strategist

Teaching & Engagement

Rebecca Rotundo
Assistant Director of Learning Design

Michelle Connolly
Learning Designer

Maggie Grady
Learning Designer

Jeremy Jungbluth
Learning Designer

Jessica Wiechec
Learning Designer

Learning Systems

Mark Woodard
Assistant Director of Learning Systems

Gary Koteras
Learning Systems Specialist

Donald Trainor
Learning Systems Specialist
Invest
IN YOURSELF.

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