This annual report is based on the Center for Educational Innovation’s activities from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

For more information about our center, visit our website at www.buffalo.edu/ubcei
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MESSAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2015–2016 academic year was an exciting one for the Center for Educational Innovation (CEI). We continued to make strides in promoting excellence in integrated services, education, development and research. Over the year, our center has provided such essential university services as UBlearns, Teaching the UB Curriculum, UB Student Evaluation of Teaching, online instructional design, exam scoring and instructional video production. We again organized such high-impact annual events as the Genteels’ Excellence in Teaching Conference, the Conference for Graduate Teaching Assistants and Assessment Day.

One major emphasis of CEI last year was the promotion of scholarship of teaching and learning. We had successful collaborations with The Graduate School in offering the postdoc teaching training certificate program and with select schools and departments in conducting faculty teaching observation. Our second annual seed grant competition resulted in funding five new innovative projects to transform university teaching. We were also active in submitting external grant proposals, and successful in receiving grants from the National Science Foundation and the State University of New York.

I invite you to read this annual report to learn more about our diverse activities and accomplishments and, more importantly, to explore ways to get involved.

CEI belongs to all of you!

Xiufeng Liu, PhD
Director, Center for Educational Innovation
Professor, Department of Learning and Instruction
ESSENTIAL UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Application Administration of Instructional Technologies

The Application Administration of Instructional Technologies cluster, in coordination with university partners, provides application administration for essential university services that include UBlearns, UBclicks and iTunes U.

Members of this cluster also provide technical support for faculty, staff and students, maintain online help documentation, and present workshops and group training sessions on the use of UBlearns, UBclicks and iTunes U.

2015–2016 Activity Highlights

- Blackboard on UBlearns
  - Updated the Blackboard application, including all third-party vendor integrations, which provide new course tools and enhanced functionality.
  - Collaborated with internal and external university partners to release the following new vendor integrations:
    - Atomic Learning (digital content library of professional development and learning resources)
    - Remark Grade Import (streamlined faculty workflow to upload ‘bubblesheet-style’ scores for CEI’s Enhanced Test Scoring (ETS) service)
    - Helix Medial streaming server building block tools (direct upload, download and viewing of media files).
  - Continued research, development and testing of faculty requested integrations such as Pearson Publishing Mastering Lab and Digionation’s ePortfolio.
  - Offered 25 individual UBlearns training sessions by request and a specialized presentation on UBlearns for the Department of Sociology.
  - Worked one on one with faculty to help integrate instructional technology into their curriculum.

AT A GLANCE

UBlearns

- 6,615 UBlearns courses delivered
- 257,985 UBlearns student enrollments processed
- 4,800 UBlearns support requests completed
Online Learning

The main focus of this cluster is to support online learning at the university. The cluster provides instructional design consultation for individual faculty, departments and schools, as well as works collaboratively with instructors, academic units and campus committees on university policies and strategic directions for online learning.

Our Online Learning cluster also acts as a liaison between the university and regional, state and national online learning organizations to provide resources for faculty development, innovation and the implementation of quality standards and evidence-based best practices. Outside organizations include the SUNY Center for Professional Development (CPD), the Open SUNY Center for Online Teaching Excellence (COTE) and the Online Learning Consortium (OLC).

2015–2016 Activity Highlights

- Consulted on instructional design issues with 29 faculty and staff relating to online learning practices and instructional technologies.
- Conducted workshops and developed training resources for online learning, UB’s ePortfolio initiative and the effective use of instructional technologies.
- Worked with faculty in developing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Student Assessment and Program Evaluation

This cluster provides support for program evaluation, the UB Course Evaluation System and scoring services.

CEI supports annual program evaluation through the development of report standards, maintenance of an online depository and the provision of timely feedback for ongoing program improvement.

Our center also supports the implementation of the UB Course Evaluation System—the universitywide tool for evaluating academic courses at the university—by providing training to faculty and academic units, analyzing data to monitor technical qualities, and facilitating report generation for faculty, department chairs and deans.

In addition, CEI staff provides Enhanced Test Scoring services to instructors of large-enrollment courses.

2015–2016 Activity Highlights

- Created a syllabus template that serves as a model for general education program courses and has been used for more than 200 courses.
• Completed transition from Scantron to Enhanced Test Scoring, which increased efficiency and capacity, reduced turnaround times and improved reports and results for faculty.

• Scored and generated reports for approximately 1,000 scoring jobs for large-enrollment courses.

• Consulted with UB faculty on program evaluation components for 10 internal/external grant applications.

• Consulted with three outside institutions regarding course and program assessments, as well as assessment documentation for accreditation.

• Provided support for the UB Course Evaluation System.

• Continued development of the universitywide Program Assessment System, which provides current and historical organization of assessment plans and learning outcomes for programs and administration.

• Compiled “Rubric Workbook: All the Moves You’ll Need to Win the Game” for UB’s annual Assessment Day.

• Conducted assessment of ANNY (Assessment Network of New York) Assessment Boot Camp and provided a peer review to program presenter.

Communication, Engagement and Dissemination

The focus of this cluster is to highlight teaching and learning innovations at UB and beyond. This includes organizing special events with nationally known speakers, producing videos to highlight innovations at UB and informing the campus community of professional development opportunities related to teaching innovation and excellence.

Faculty Teaching Observation Pilot Program

Upon request from department chairs or faculty members, CEI professionals with university teaching experience come to a faculty’s class to observe teaching using a standardized protocol. CEI professionals then write a report and meet with the faculty to discuss findings and improvements; CEI professionals also recommend pertinent resources for faculty to consider. Teaching observation reports are confidential; they are not shared with department chairs. During the 2015–2016 academic year, CEI professionals observed 11 faculty members from three schools and four departments.

AT A GLANCE

Enhanced Test Scoring Service

The switch from Scantron to CEI’s Enhanced Test Scoring resulted in:

42% Increase in efficiency

61% Increase in capacity
2015–2016 Activity Highlights

Planned and organized campuswide events, including:

- Annual Conference for Graduate Teaching Assistants (over 200 teaching assistants registered for the daylong conference).
- Annual Genteeels’ Excellence in Teaching Conference, which featured a keynote by Robert J. Beichner, along with breakout sessions and post-conference workshops (over 90 people registered for the daylong conference).
- Assessment 4.0: Defining Quality, which featured keynotes by Daniel F. Sullivan and Robert W. Aaron, along with breakout sessions and post-conference workshops (over 126 people registered for the daylong conference).

Video production projects included:

- A three-day video production workshop along with post-production and dissemination support for 21 faculty from across the country as part of the National Science Foundation project “Case Studies and the Flipped Classroom” (in collaboration with the Department of Biological Sciences and the University Libraries).
- An introductory video for the university’s first published MOOC, “ADHD: Everyday Strategies for Elementary Students,” for the Graduate School of Education.
- “Pharmacy Professional Practice Review Series,” an instructional video for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- A series of videos in support of pedagogy and faculty development (“Quality by Design: Backwards Design,” “Feedback for Learning” and “Writing Learning Outcomes”).

Digital and electronic communications

- Continued enhancement of the CEI website, including expanded content, additional request forms and administration pages.
- Redesigned UB Course Evaluation System help website.
- Assisted with the development of the UB Curriculum website.
- Developed promotional materials to inform the UB community of services, workshops and special events offered by CEI.
- Provided design services for the School of Dental Medicine’s Student Research Day.
DIFCON12

These video interviews give insight into the emotions and reactions of faculty facilitators and students who participated in the DIFCON12 Difficult Conversations events, which were organized by the Office of the Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion and held in the spring 2016 semester. Each video focuses on one event topic, including "Why the Backlash Against #BlackLivesMatter," "Race and Privilege on Campus" and "The Myth of the Asian-American Model Minority." A final video, "DIFCON: Lessons Learned," includes summary interviews from all the events.

Quality by Design (QbD)

QbD is an online faculty development course and open educational resource (OER) that provides open access to high-quality course content and opportunities for participants to engage in meaningful discussions with experts and peers on topics relating to course design, interaction, learner support and assessment.

Built and delivered through a collaborative effort between UB and SUNY instructional support staff, QbD is now a SUNY supported resource. The online course has run eight cohorts, with a total of 425 registrants.

Teaching Certificate For Postdoc Research Associates

In 2015–2016, the Center for Educational Innovation and The Graduate School collaborated in offering a teaching certificate program for postdoctoral research associates. This program consisted of six two-hour workshops on the following topics:

- Essential Elements of Effective University Teaching
- Basic Principles and Effective Techniques of Assessment
- The Syllabus: A Contract Between Faculty and Students
- Teaching With Technology
- Online Learning in the Next Generation
- Teaching as Scholarship: Becoming the Next-Generation University Faculty

Fifty-two postdoctoral research associates registered for the workshop series, with 37 postdocs completing the series and receiving their teaching certificates jointly issued by the Graduate School and CEI.


**Teaching Online: An Orientation**

This course has been developed as a set of self-paced, online modules that allow faculty who are new to online teaching to explore and learn about topics such as asynchronous vs. synchronous, instructor presence and student engagement and interaction.

**Teaching Students From Around the World**

This is a two-part online video workshop that presents faculty and staff with an understanding of international student perspectives and how they can use this information to improve communication and learning among international students.

The first of these workshops, Promoting Class Participation, includes presentations on cultural assumptions, the importance of group harmony and attitudes on class participation. The second workshop, Academic Integrity, includes presentations on international student learning styles and student academic relationships. Produced in collaboration with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

**Teaching UB Seminars**

This online video workshop provides information to help faculty prepare to teach UB Seminar courses.

Video presentations include: a review of the basic goals and learning outcomes of UB Seminars, including some suggestions on how to handle academic success learning outcomes; using ePortfolios in UB Seminars; and the demographics and interests of our incoming freshman class. In addition, Andrew Stott, vice provost and dean of undergraduate education, shares some personal experiences teaching a pilot version of a UB Seminar.

Produced in collaboration with the Division of Academic Affairs and the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education.

**Tools of Engagement Project (TOEP)**

TOEP is an on-demand online discovery-learning professional-development resource. The goal of TOEP is to encourage SUNY faculty and staff to explore and reflect upon the use of emerging technology tools to expand tech-infused pedagogy. The TOEP community provides a supportive environment that encourages participants to reflect on how they might integrate these technology tools into teaching and learning. TOEP Phase 4 included 338 registrants from across 21 SUNY campuses (94 registrants were from UB).
**UBlearns Overview**

This module has been developed as a self-guided online introduction to UBlearns. CEI staff facilitate discussions and answer questions in UBlearns for faculty, staff and teaching assistants who are taking the course.

**Workshop for Department Chairs on Teaching Mentoring**

Upon an invitation from the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, the Center for Educational Innovation conducted a three-hour workshop for department chairs on teaching mentoring. The workshop covered the necessity for teaching mentoring, as well as techniques and resources.

**Workshops for Teaching Assistants**

The Center for Education Innovation offered two workshops for teaching assistants who registered for the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering CE 599 Supervised Teaching course. The workshops covered topics related to effective teaching and assessment.

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Keynote speaker Robert J. Beichner, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor, NC State University, introduced the SCALE-UP Project to more than 90 UB faculty and staff at the 2015 Genteels’ Excellence in Teaching Conference.
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

CEI Seed Grant for Promoting Pedagogical Innovation
The Center for Educational Innovation serves as a nexus for campus-wide efforts to further elevate the scholarship of, and research support for, pedagogical advancement and improved learning at the university. The Seed Grant for Promoting Pedagogical Innovation, offered annually through the Center for Educational Innovation, intends to promote excellence in university teaching, learning and assessment. In particular, it intends to enhance UB’s capacity to successfully obtain external grants to support university pedagogical innovation.

Five proposals were awarded funding in 2016:

- **Crowdsourcing for Crowd-learning: A New Online Tool for Advanced Peer Assessment**
  PI: Alexander Nikolaev, assistant professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
  Co-PI: Suzanne Miller, professor, Department of Learning and Instruction

- **Digital Music Notation with Auto-Grading and Immediate Feedback**
  PI: Richard Plotkin, professor, Department of Music

- **Promoting Learning Using Telepresence Robots in College Classroom and Labs**
  PI: Changxu Wu, associate professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

- **Using College Students’ Physiological Cycles to Predict Performance in Gateway Physics Courses**
  PI: Eduardo Mercado III, professor, Department of Psychology
  Co-PI: Surajit Sen, professor, Department of Physics

- **Wicked, Messy, Clumsy: Comparing Qualitative Methods for Evaluating Student Experiences in PBL Settings**
  PI: Korydon Smith, associate professor, Department of Architecture
  Co-PI: James N. Jensen, professor, Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering

COMING IN 2017

Pedagogical Innovation

The next Call For Proposals for CEI’s Seed Grant for Promoting Pedagogical Innovation will take place in February 2017.
CEI Sponsored Projects

A Case Study of the Role of the Instructor and Student Engagement in Asynchronous Discussion Forum: A Multi-Method Approach (In-Gu Kang)
This study aims to investigate how the instructor plays a role in enhancing student engagement in asynchronous discussion forums in an online course by using archives containing student and instructor activities in discussion forums.

Student Engagement in University Classrooms (Xiufeng Liu, Carol Van Zile-Tamsen, Clyde Herreid, Surajit Sen)
This pilot study intended to validate a published instrument on student engagement in university classrooms. Students in select large biology, physics and mechanical engineering courses in the spring semester responded to an online survey, and construct validation and reliability analysis were conducted. Findings of this pilot study will inform future grant proposals on student engagement in university classrooms.

Validity Study of the UB Student Evaluation of Teaching (UBSET) (Christopher Rates)
This study is investigating whether UBSET measures what faculty and students consider effective teaching, whether it does so accurately and reliably, and how the measure can be improved.

Externally Sponsored Projects

Case Studies and the Flipped Classroom
This National Science Foundation–funded project assists faculty in developing video production skills in order to create original video content to accompany their written case studies and publishes the final materials on the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science online library. Over the past three years, 62 faculty have attended the three-day workshop where they participated in video production, animation and editing activities.

Clyde F. Herreid, PI; Nancy Schiller, co-PI; John Wild, CEI video producer
National Science Foundation • Sept. 1, 2013–Aug. 31, 2016

Collaborative Research: AGEP Transformation Alliance: CIRTL AGEP-Inclusive Excellence and Improved Climate for Future Faculty
Xiufeng Liu, PI; Luis Colon, co-PI; Chris Connor, senior project personnel
National Science Foundation • Oct. 1, 2016–Sept. 30, 2021
Status: Funded ($150,098)
**CTSA/KL2 Mentored Career Development Program: Engaging a Diverse Workforce of Translational Researchers**

Educational experiences are designed to provide professional development activities in the development of clinical and translation science competencies for junior faculty.

Tim Murphy, PI (CTSA); Margarita Dubocovich, PI (KL2); Kim Griswold, co-PI (KL2); Xiufeng Liu, co-PI (KL2); Carol Van Zile-Tamsen, co-PI (KL2)

National Institutes of Health • Aug. 12, 2015–Mar. 31, 2019

**Enabling Access to Cutting-Edge Biomedical and Behavioral Science**

A mentoring program to recruit and support underrepresented minority students into biomedical and behavioral sciences doctoral programs.

Margarita Dubocovich, PI; Raj Rajnarayanan, co-PI; Xiufeng Liu, co-PI

National Institutes of Health • March 28, 2012–Feb. 28, 2017

**Increasing Access, Completion and Seamless Transfer Success Through the Development of Common Student Learning Outcomes, Diagnostic Assessment and Supportive Digital Teaching Resources for High Demand/High Impact Gateway Courses**

A. Scott Weber, PI; Xiufeng Liu, co-PI; Carol Van Zile-Tamsen, co-PI

SUNY Expanded Investment and Performance Fund (EIPF) • July 1, 2016–June 30, 2021

Status: Funded ($1,000,000 shared with three other SUNY university centers)

**Measuring the Effectiveness and Implementation of a Genetics MOOC**

Christopher Rates, PI; Martha Greatrix, co-PI; Jennifer Surtees, co-PI; Marc Halfon, co-PI; Susan Smith, co-PI

SUNY Innovative Instructional Technology Grants (IITG) • July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017

Status: Funded ($19,500)
MIA: Veteran-Specific Content in SUNY Professional Graduate Degree Programs

This SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grant was to facilitate a conversation amongst faculty and staff from UB, Empire State College and Oswego to promote the inclusion of veteran and military family content in health care curriculum. Meetings were held in Syracuse, N.Y., and resulted in publication development, conference presentation and model development for curriculum sharing across the SUNY system.

Penny Coleman, PI; Cathleen Morreale, CEI representative
SUNY ODEI • June 1, 2015–July 31, 2016

Open Door to Open SUNY (ODOS): MOOC multi-dimensional subgroups, prediction and implementation project

Christine Kroll, PI; In-Gu Kang, co-PI; Cyndi Burnett, co-PI; Gregory Fabiano, co-PI; Yvonne D. Harrison, co-PI; Margaret Schedel, co-PI
SUNY Innovative Instructional Technology Grants (IITG) • July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017
Status: Funded ($43,750)

Research-Based Best Practices for Creation and Integration of Videos Into College Teaching
Rebecca Rotundo, PI; Michele Messenger, co-PI; John Wild, co-PI; In-Gu Kang, co-PI; Carol Van Zile-Tamsen, co-PI
SUNY Innovative Instructional Technology Grants (IITG) • July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017
Status: Funded ($20,000.00)

Telling My Story: Communicating with Digital Literacy
John Wild, production lead, CEI; Melanie Green, faculty lead; Robert Orrange, student lead; Cathleen Morreale, assessment lead
UB Graduate School • Sept. 1, 2016–May 30, 2017
Status: Funded ($10,000)

University at Buffalo/Buffalo Public Schools Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership
An innovative approach to teacher professional development among 12 high-needs urban schools via interdisciplinary research experiences during the summer, followed by development of interdisciplinary science teaching and learning materials and implementation in the classroom.
Joe Gardella, PI; Xiufeng Liu, co-PI; Alex Cartwright, co-PI; Satpal Singh, co-PI
The National Science Foundation • Sept. 1, 2011–Aug. 31, 2016
**Pending Projects**

**A Personalized Social Belonging App (SNAPP) for Promoting Retention of Underrepresented Students in STEM Majors**

Rohini Srihari, PI; Carol Van Zile-Tamsen, co-PI

UB IMPACT Grants

Status: Under Review

**Strategies: Geotechnology Experiences for Students and Teachers**

Joseph A. Gardella, PI; Ling Bian, co-PI; Xiufeng Liu, co-PI; Sandro Sodano, co-PI; John Cerne, co-PI

National Science Foundation

Status: Pending

**Conference presentations**


Greatrix, M. (June 2016). *On the leading edge of faculty development: Incorporating gamification, open access and large-scale collaboration.* Presented at SUNY Conference on Instructional Technologies (CIT), Potsdam, NY.


Sullivan, R. (January 2016). *Tools of Engagement Project (TOEP): Online, on-demand faculty development creating community across system boundaries.* Presented at International Academic Forum Conference (IAFOR) on Technology in the Classroom, Honolulu, HI.

Sullivan, R. (June 2016). *Quality by Design panel session for the SUNY FACT2 Excellence Award for Instructional Support.* Presented at SUNY Conference on Instructional Technologies (CIT), Potsdam, NY.


Publications

CEI Publications


Refereed Publications


AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service
Roberta (Robin) Sullivan was one of the recipients of this Chancellor’s award, which recognizes consistently superior professional achievement within and beyond the position.

SUNY FACT2 Excellence Award for Instructional Support
Roberta (Robin) Sullivan received the Instructional Support Award, which acknowledges innovative uses of educational technologies to meaningfully improve teaching and learning by working individually or in collaboration with teaching faculty in the strategic application of curriculum within SUNY.

Open SUNY Center for Online Teaching Excellence Effective Practice Award
Quality by Design (QbD) received the Effective Practice Award, which showcases online best practices, strategies and innovative online teaching and learning activities of exemplary Open SUNY Fellows and online practitioners from across the SUNY system. Martha Greamerix and Roberta (Robin) Sullivan were part of the team that designed and developed QbD.

Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD) Innovation Award Finalist
The Tools of Engagement Project (TOEP) was one of six nationally recognized finalists for creative ideas for faculty development for the enhancement of teaching and learning. Roberta (Robin) Sullivan is the project director of TOEP.

Murray Straus Interpersonal Violence Original Research Award
Presented at the 20th International Summit and Training on Violence, Abuse and Trauma Across the Lifespan in San Diego, Calif., to collaborators Jill Fish, Jennifer Livingston, David Patterson and Carol Van Zile-Tamsen.

Eighth Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium
Christopher Rates was awarded first place in the poster competition for his research poster Validity Study of the UB Student Evaluation of Teaching (UBSET).
STAFF
DIRECTORY

Administration

Xiufeng Liu, Director, Center for Educational Innovation; Professor, Department of Learning and Instruction
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-4050 • xliu5@buffalo.edu

Carol Van Zile-Tamsen, Associate Director
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-3905 • cmv3@buffalo.edu

Renee Crandall, Office Manager
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-1801 • reneecra@buffalo.edu

Application Administration of Instructional Technologies

Mark Woodard, UBlearns Lead Application Administrator
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-6128 • mwoodard@buffalo.edu

Gary Koteras, UBlearns Application Administrator
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-2189 • koteras@buffalo.edu

Rebecca Rotundo, Instructional Technology Specialist
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-7748 • rotundo@buffalo.edu

Communication, Engagement and Dissemination

Donald Trainor, Communications and Marketing
316 Harriman Hall, South Campus
716-829-3687 • trainor@buffalo.edu

Monica Carter, Engagement and Dissemination
316 Harriman Hall, South Campus
716-829-3686 • mjcarter@buffalo.edu

John Wild, Instructional Video Production
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-829-2972 • jhwild@buffalo.edu
Online Learning

Martha Greatrix, Online Learning Specialist
316 Harriman Hall, South Campus
716-829-3582 • greatrix@buffalo.edu

In-Gu Kang, Online Learning Analytics Postdoctoral Research Associate
316 Harriman Hall, South Campus
716-645-1833 • ingukang@buffalo.edu

Michele Messenger, Online Instructional Designer
316 Harriman Hall, South Campus
716-829-2115 • mmesseng@buffalo.edu

Roberta (Robin) Sullivan, Online Learning Specialist
316 Harriman Hall, South Campus
716-645-0773 • rrs@buffalo.edu

Student Assessment and Program Evaluation

Cathleen Morreale, Curriculum, Student Assessment and Course Evaluation Support
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-5593 • cwalther@buffalo.edu

Christopher Rates, Psychometrics Postdoctoral Research Associate
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-0780 • carates@buffalo.edu

Thomas Slomka, Program Assessment and Annual Assessment Reporting
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-0776 • tsломка@buffalo.edu

Carol Tutzauer, Curriculum and Student Learning Assessment
212 Capen Hall, North Campus
716-645-3901 • tutzauer@buffalo.edu
Center for Educational Innovation

The Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) serves as a nexus for campuswide efforts to further elevate the scholarship of, and research support for, pedagogical advancement and improved learning at the university.

Email
ubcei@buffalo.edu

Web
www.buffalo.edu/ubcei

North Campus
212 Capen Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260-1680
716-645-7700

South Campus
316 Harriman Hall
Buffalo, NY 14214-8025
716-829-3030