

## **2019-2020: Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning Excellence**

### **Definition of Unit**

#### **Providing Department:**

Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning Excellence

#### **Department/Unit Contact:**

Bedelia Russell ~~Unit Coordinator~~ *Unit* was fulfilled this year through various workshops, academic learning communities (ALCs), and individual faculty consultations. Due to a unit name change (Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to CITL) and multiple leadership transitions in conjunction with

## **CITL Strategic Goal 2**

### **Define Goal:**

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning will advance the benefits of intentional design.

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

Provide faculty development opportunities related to intentional course design.

### **EVALUATION:**

*the QEP Director, Mr. Lenly Weathers, to highlight and integrate CITL services with QEP efforts. This collaboration will continue for the upcoming year.*

*Communication effectiveness can also be increased with a more dynamic CITL website. Several items were lost in translation with the University website platform changeover in March 2019. As the infrastructure of CITL becomes better established over the next year, it will allow for revision of the website to more effectively engage the campus community through inquiry and survey forms more readily available through the website. How to most effectively communicate, in an iterative process, with the larger campus community continues to be a challenge.*

2) Recruit external expert collaborators to provide faculty development opportunities to the campus.

**EVALUATION:** *In spring 2019, CITL sponsored a workshop entitled [The Missing Link](#). Dr. Peter Doolittle from Virginia Tech and Dr. Robin Paige from Rice University presented alongside our own Dr. Mark Melichar.*

## **CITL Strategic Goal 4**

*The SoTL ALC needs to be particularly formalized as a means to achieve both improvement in teaching and learning as well as advance scholarship opportunities for faculty in the area of educational research. As the interim Director had to cover this particular ALC after the semester had started due to the prior faculty facilitator being unable to extend adequate time availability to interested participants, the interim Director discovered, that outside of a textbook, there were no ALC materials established or readily available for transition to a new facilitator. Formal ALC facilitator guidelines need to be established with expectations and mechanisms for evaluation.*

*Despite the ALC challenges, the anecdotal feedback from faculty participants was quite positive. The ALCs provided a means for colleagues to have excellent discussions around shared interests and in many ways did promote community and extend a network of engaged scholars. Several members of the SoTL ALC and the Inclusive Intelligence ALC groups currently have or have plans to develop scholarship around the ALC activities for summer and fall.*

## **CITL Strategic Goal 5**

### **Define Goal:**

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning will celebrate faculty achievements in teaching and learning.

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

Acknowledge via CITL about faculty accomplishments and achievements.

**EVALUATION:** *CITL continues to recognize university- and college-level faculty award recipients [via the CITL website](#). In addition, CITL established an inaugural [CITL Game Changer Award](#). This award is given to an individual who models and practices the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and is invested in true educational change that is both impactful and scalable. The Faculty Game-Changer is who will continue to help move our institution forward through educational practices which support our University Strategic Plan of TN Tech Tomorrow. The selection of the inaugural recipient was completed by the CITL staff following evaluation of Tech Teaches presentations. The plan for next year is to solicit nominations and do teaching observations campus-wide prior to selection. More can always continue to be done in this area as the center enters strategic planning and review of mission and vision.*

## **CITL Strategic Goal 6**

### **Define Goal:**

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning will advance distinction in educational development.

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

- 1) Examine the current CITL organizational structure for improved efficiencies in provision of services.
- 2) Examine the current CITL organizational structure to remove redundancies in responsibilities following reorganization and realignment of the Innovation Institute and the Division of Digital and Distance Education.
- 3) Develop a plan to address findings from CITL staff and interim Director internal assessments of current CITL organizational climate.

**EVALUATION:** *This goal was not attainable for this academic year. There have been two transitions in CITL Director leadership in two years. In addition, there were two significant reorganizations and realignments within the past year and a half which impacted reporting structures and staff aggregate. In those transitions, the center also had a name change from the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) to its current name to reflect the former Innovation Institute's assimilation with CTLE. In October 2018, the Division of Distance Education was dissolved with the remaining staff (one TNeCampus Liaison and one Online Instructional Designer) also being assimilated with CITL. Following this last reorganization, the interim Director completed an institutional peer analysis in December/January comparing the TTU CITL to other peer institutions identified by the University. The findings are included in comparison tables and can be viewed as an addendum in an attachment to this annual report. The findings were discussed with the Provost's Office in early January 2019.*

*Over the past nine months, the interim Director has met frequently with the current CITL staff to review job descriptions, responsibilities, etc., in context of the CITL mission. Job descriptions as they reflect currently revealed redundancies in some areas of job responsibility (budget oversight, for example), while other job descriptions align with outdated or dissolved prior organizational structures and mechanisms of reporting. Staff are in need of stability and clarity in how they fit with the CITL mission with re-titles, and in some cases reclassification, being necessary to capture the scope of responsibilities and to more accurately reflect what each staff member actually does. By taking this step, it will provide clarity in responsibilities and daily tasks and help increase efficiencies and mechanisms of communication. The CITL mission as it currently is stated no longer captures the full provision of services and is in need of review and revision in context of the University's Strategic Plan, TN Tech Tomorrow. Knowing that the CITL mission review in context of strategic planning efforts is more appropriate to be completed*



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