



Annual Report 2020-2021



Center for Teaching & Learning

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Thank You

From the Director

May 2021 marked the first anniversary of the Center for Teaching & Learning, dedicated to supporting a diverse and inclusive community of educators on our campus. Needless to say, this has been an extremely challenging year for higher education. The pandemic required us to rapidly shift to remote teaching modalities and strident calls for social justice demanded that we think differently about our classrooms. The economic, mental health, and other challenges faced by our undergraduates and graduates prompted us to reevaluate what student-centered education means.

Even though CU faculty faced myriad demands in their own lives, again and again they invested substantial time and energy into better serving their students. This was evident from the perspective of the CTL in multiple ways. Participation in our workshops, reading groups, and other programs was high, with many individuals attending multiple events. Faculty from across campus scheduled one-on-one consultations with our staff. And, we partnered with departments across campus to offer tailored, discipline-specific programs that addressed, among other topics, inclusive teaching practices and pedagogically effective uses of technology. In total, the CTL served over 3400 individuals over the past year. Additionally, the teaching resources on our website received thousands of visits. This high level of engagement offers evidence of the remarkable dedication of CU faculty to our students.

On behalf of the CTL team, I would like to thank the graduate students, instructors, tenured and tenure-track faculty, and staff with whom we have worked with over the past year. It has been an honor and a privilege. We are also grateful to the many offices on our campus that we have collaborated with over the past twelve months to help advance the teaching mission of the university. We look forward to building and strengthening these relationships in the years ahead.



Kirk Ambrose
FOUNDING DIRECTOR,
CENTER FOR TEACHING
& LEARNING
PROFESSOR, ART HISTORY



Our Work

2020-2021 At a Glance

3400+ CU Boulder educators served through CTL programming

CTL-hosted [events, workshops, and trainings](#)

153

64 individual [teaching consultations](#)

[Lead Graduate Student Fellows](#) in 44 departments across campus

50

43 tailored [department trainings](#)

invited talks for groups around campus

16

About the Center for Teaching & Learning

The Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL) **fosters a community of educators** dedicated to supporting teaching and learning, a cornerstone of our university. Our goal is to transform our teachers and students in their educational practice, inspire innovative and evidence-based teaching, and create a culture of continuous improvement. Through the CTL,

we strive to promote a **diverse and inclusive community** of educators and learners who serve as the hallmark of our student-centered campus.

We serve all educators at CU Boulder, including tenured and tenure-track faculty, instructors, lecturers, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and staff.

Responsive programming...

Campus Partners

Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement
Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance
Student Academic Success Center

Inclusive Pedagogy

Anti-Racism Canvas Course

In an effort to support and advance dialogue on race, the CTL built a self-paced anti-racism course. Readings, resources, reflection questions, and group discussion questions guided and engaged over **950** participants in order to create equitable spaces for learning and development at CU Boulder.

Be the Change

This seminar series for **30** CU educators developed a network of inclusion practitioners over **9** hours of training and encouraged a shared sense of ownership between faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students in the creation of equitable learning spaces.

Customized Collaborations

The CTL worked with departments to respond to the challenges of the academic year, creating tailored trainings for more than **750** faculty and instructors across campus on topics such as Engagement in Synchronous Classes, Building Community Online, Inclusive Teaching, and De-escalation in the Classroom.

Inclusive Community of Practice

ICoP connected more than **400** equity-minded folks on campus through the inclusivity network email list and weekly meetings to develop inclusive practices and policies in the classroom, sharing and creating knowledge on topics related to diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice.

Grounded Knowledge Panels

These powerful public conversations, held by a small group of people with personal understanding of a particular topic, were witnessed by audience member attendees who brought distinctive power and depth to the experience of speaking and listening. Over **150** witnesses attended at least one of three offered panels.

Department Trainings

Campus Partners

Over 20 Departments & Academic Support Units

Campus Partners

Continuing Education
Office of Academic and Learning Innovation
Office of Information Technology
University Libraries

Teaching Well with Technology

Technology-focused Workshops

Over **270** educators attended sessions designed to support informed use of technology in the classroom. Workshops covered **Canvas**, **Zoom**, **iClickers**, **PlayPosit**, **Perusall**, and more.

Online Technology Resources

Articles, videos, and resources on the CTL website supporting remote teaching needs were accessed more than **10,900** times.

Campus Partners

Boulder Faculty Assembly
Office of Data Analytics
Program for Writing & Rhetoric

Assessment

FCQ Workshops

The CTL hosted four workshops on Faculty Course Questionnaires and department teaching assessment, serving **103** faculty member and academic leader attendees.

Online Assessment Resources

Articles, videos, and assessment tools developed by CTL staff were accessed more than **5000** times.

Campus Partners

Counseling and Psychiatric Services
Disability Services
Graduate School
Office of Faculty Affairs
Renée Crown Wellness Institute

Wellness

Innovative Workshops

In response to unprecedented stressors on students and faculty alike, the CTL hosted interactive sessions for more than **200** educators, including workshops on Work/Life Balance, Holistic Advising, Addressing Student Mental Health, Building Self-Regard, Responding to Our Pandemic-Influenced Experiences, and Promoting the Mental Health and Wellness of Our Students.

...through key partnerships

What's Next

Micro-Credentials

CTL [micro-credentials](#) offer instructors opportunities to engage in sustained inquiry and skill-building around a teaching topic. Two newly approved micro-credentials, **Just & Equitable Teaching** and **Teaching International Students**, are available starting Fall 2021. A [team of graduate students](#) hired to explore programming around equity and social justice was integral to the development of these micro-credentials over the last year.



Equitable Teaching Conference

In August 2021, the CTL will host a [week of teaching-focused workshops](#) that will help educators prepare for the fall semester with a focus on equity-minded practices. Conference participants will learn to take responsibility for the climate in their classrooms, employ new teaching practices that are proactively inclusive, and create spaces of belonging in their classrooms for all students.

ASSETT Partnership

In an effort to maximize its efforts to enhance teaching with technology, [Arts and Sciences Support of Education Through Technology](#) (ASSETT) will move into the CTL during Summer 2021. In moving to the CTL, ASSETT finds a natural home and joins a vibrant team that supports improved teaching campus-wide.



About Us

Campus Partners

We could not have sustained this work without our valued partners across campus. **Thank you!**

- » Arts & Sciences Support of Education Through Technology
- » Boulder Faculty Assembly
- » Counseling and Psychiatric Services
- » Center for STEM Learning
- » Continuing Education
- » Disability Services
- » Graduate School
- » Office of Academic and Learning Innovation
- » Office of Data Analytics
- » Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement
- » Office of Faculty Affairs
- » Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance
- » Office of Information Technology
- » Program for Writing & Rhetoric
- » Renée Crown Wellness Institute
- » Student Academic Success Center
- » University Libraries

CTL Staff

Kirk Ambrose
FOUNDING DIRECTOR
PROFESSOR, ART HISTORY

Becca Ciancanelli
INCLUSIVE PEDAGOGY LEAD

Preston Cumming
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAD

Stephanie Foster
ASSESSMENT LEAD

Nelson Guerra
BUDGET & FINANCE COORDINATOR

Jason Lagapa
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAD

Allison Work
EVENT PLANNER & COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

With special thanks to...

Donna Mejia
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF DANCE
2020-2021 CTL FACULTY FELLOW

Meghan Morrison
STUDENT ASSISTANT

The CTL Philosophy

Our work through the CTL aims to cultivate attitudes toward teaching that are open, curious, and innovative. We understand teaching to be a skill-based and intentional practice that necessarily evolves over time and is enriched through reflection and reevaluation. Impactful teaching, we believe, is not innately produced but is learned, informed by continuous dialogue and collective knowledge. Productive teaching also must be thoughtfully and creatively planned as well as purposefully assessed and reexamined. Mindful that teaching is a social and public act that should reflect a diverse populace, we aim to promote and develop

awareness about multiple and often intersecting identities such as race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and socioeconomic class. As a Center, we invite educators to an open, common space where all are welcome to explore teaching practices, pose questions, have brave conversations, take creative risks, and embrace intellectual humility. Our Center is at its best when a community of educators itself produces knowledge about teaching, builds this knowledge within their own academic units and spaces, and grows their capacity to enact positive change.

ists of all who come into and go through the
d by her influence and who can challenge
ou go, the university goes with you.
you are at work, there is the university at work.



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