Background

In March 2020, Austin Community College faced the start of the COVID-19 crisis. The Faculty Development Office was one of many departments at the College that made adjustments to accommodate the many changes that were associated with the transition to online learning for both faculty and students. In the effort to support faculty through this online transition the Faculty Development Office collaborated with other departments and faculty to provide resources and opportunities to learn individually and within groups.

Current Activities/Accomplishments

- We developed, implemented and continue to maintain Remote Recess. This is an opportunity for faculty and/or staff to learn a new teaching technique or resource presented by a colleague as a demo follow up with time to practice and discuss. We have offered 18 Remote Recess sessions since the start of April, have had 135 live participants and an unknown number of views for the recorded and posted sessions.
- Faculty Development started offering Peer Faculty Consultations. Faculty Members, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Gale Spear and Yam Tolan completed over 40 individual faculty consults.
- To ensure that new Faculty could complete their Faculty Talent Onboarding Program we learned how to utilize Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and used this platform to redesign the remaining sessions to be delivered synchronously while using active and collaborative online teaching practices. Participation increased more than double from the previous Spring sessions that were held F2F with a total of 46 participants.
- Teaching and Learning Academy (TLA) continued with the transition of the last F2F sessions hosted synchronously online using BB Collaborate Ultra. We hosted our guest speaker Erick Montenegro from MILOA on the topic of Equity-Minded Assessment. We had a total of 125 faculty participants, including TLA participants, other Faculty, Department Chairs, Assistant Deans and Deans.
- To ensure that professional development programming could continue as planned in a virtual format we worked with all stakeholders to redesign delivery using best practices for online teaching and learning. Computerside Chats continued and had 17 participants in April. Discover Your Blindspots was re-designed, 2 sessions were added with a total of 68 participants and 2 more are scheduled for the summer. We supported the work of the two Faculty Learning Communities as they presented and engaged virtually with the participation of their 24 participants.
- There is programming we typically offer each Spring that was cancelled and/or postponed. This includes: the Riverboat Cruise, Celebration of Great Teaching Retreat, and the Awards Banquet.

During the months of March, April, and May we transitioned and offered a total of 91 hours in synchronous professional development to approximately 546 faculty members. In addition to this we have created and provided 20 recorded demo trainings that are accessed regularly, and promoted access to relevant teaching and learning opportunities via Starlink, NISOD online, Magna Mentor Videos and LinkedIn Learning.

Next Steps

Based on the changing landscape of the workplace and ability to engage in the online atmosphere we are taking the initiative to research and apply best practices in a virtual environment. We are attending virtual teaching and learning conferences and redesigning, updating, and creating new content to align with faculty needs and college initiatives.

- Currently we are still planning to host our annual college-wide professional development event, Summer Software Day on Friday July 24th. This event will be an online conference, will include a plenary speaker, all sessions will be offered via BB Collaborate Ultra and consists of four tracks.
    - The tracks are: Active & Engaged Learning, Assessment Techniques, Equitable Learning Environments, and Creativity, Productivity & Wellness