

### TEACHING & LEARNING ACADEMY

#### **Background**

Anchored in the ACC Faculty Values and developed for faculty, the [Teaching and Learning Academy \(TLA\)](#) contributes to student success by expanding faculty teaching practices. The program is designed to support faculty based on evidence-based teaching strategies, reflective practice, and teaching innovation. Essential to the Teaching and Learning Academy is the creation of a cohort of faculty who will learn from each other by exploring the scholarship, art, and passion of teaching.

The Teaching and Learning Academy offers four courses:

- **Teaching to the Brain**
- **Building a Community of Learners**
- **Engaging Students for Learning**
- **Assessing Students' Learning**



These courses represent the combined effort of over 25 faculty members. Each course is broken down into four modules and is a total of 5 weeks. Each module contains approximately three hours of content, including an in-depth video presentation of the topic, a video of sample classroom implementation, facilitated online discussions, and supplemental reading material. After spending four weeks learning and discussing the four modules, participants end each course with a three-hour Cohort Meeting. The Cohort Meeting is dedicated to having all participants share, learn, and collaborate with each other about the art and heart of teaching.

#### **Accomplishments for 2020-21**

- 2020-2021 was the second year for the Teaching and Learning Academy. Due to COVID restrictions, all of the in-person sessions (TLA kickoff and 4 cohort meetings) were redesigned for virtual delivery.
- Leadership of the TLA was successfully transitioned from Gale Spear to new leader Samantha Croft.
- There were 45 participants that completed the entire TLA program in May.
- An abbreviated Summer version of the TLA is being offered, covering just the third and fourth courses (*Engaging Students* and *Assessing Students*). 21 participants are registered, 72% of these are returning from the previous summer. They will complete each course in a two week span instead of the five weeks given for the regular TLA.
- 14% of the 2019-20 participants were nominated for one of our 2020 Faculty Awards. This is compared to 5% of the general faculty population that was nominated.
- 96% of TLA participants reported that they already are, or will be soon using what they learned in this program.
- Qualitative feedback from participants included:
  - "The materials were high quality, information rich and well organized. The readings were relevant and the perfect length to compliment the videos. I had a great team and our discussions were valuable."
  - "My students reported that many of these changes helped them in their coursework, so the benefit to students through my benefit was immediate, as well as (hopefully!) one that will continue to increase over time."

### **Plans for 2021-22**

- Under Samantha Croft's direction, we will continue to refine and build on the foundations set in TLA's first two years.
- Content is regularly updated to reflect current teaching practices and needs.
- We plan to offer TLA to up to 60 participants for the 21-22 academic year cohort. This will be our 3rd cohort.
- We plan to resume in-person cohort workshops by early 2022 if not sooner.