Center for Academic Excellence

Year End Report
2017-2018 Academic Year

This academic year, the Center for Academic Excellence continued to explore new ways to offer professional development opportunities to the faculty and staff at Millersville University. Prior to 2013, the CAE mostly offered stand-alone, face-to-face sessions on specific topics of interest. Over the last five years, however, the CAE has worked to extend faculty engagement and participation over longer periods of time with the hope of having more impact.

Faculty Learning Communities:
In the Spring 2013, the CAE offered its first Faculty Learning Community built up on the book *Seven Research Based Principles for Smart Teaching*. Since that time, the CAE has worked with faculty to join and lead Faculty Learning Communities. Faculty Learning Communities are unique in that the group engages with a selected topic over the course of several weeks during the semester. During the 2017 – 2018 academic year, the CAE supported seven FLCs centered on different topics. Across the different FLCs, over 70 faculty members were involved in these extended conversations.

Fall 2017 Faculty Learning Communities:

- **FLC on Raising Race Questions: Whiteness and Inquiry in Education (Michaels, 2015)**
  Number of participants: 10
  Lead member: Dr. Timothy Mahoney, Associate Professor, Educational Foundations

- **FLC on Universal Design in Higher Education (Burgstahler & Young, 2015)**
  Number of participants: 9
  Lead member: AnnMarie Licata, Director of the PA Inclusive Higher Education Consortium & Jan Bechtel, Director of Integrated Studies

- **FLC on The Spark of Learning: Energizing the College Classroom with the Science of Emotion (Cavanagh, 2016)**
  Number of participants: 11
  Lead member: Oliver Dreon, Director of the Center for Academic Excellence

- **FLC on Successful STEM Mentoring Initiatives for Underrepresented Students: A Research-Based Guide for Faculty and Administrators (Packard & Fortenberry, 2016)**
  Number of participants: 10
  Lead member: Dr. Jeff Adams, Associate Provost and Dr. Brent Horton, Assistant Professor, Biology

Spring 2018 Faculty Learning Communities:

- **FLC on Enhancing Learning through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (McKinney, 2007)**
  Number of participants: 10
  Lead member: Oliver Dreon, Director of the Center for Academic Excellence

- **FLC on Hacking Assessment (Sackstein, 2015)**
  Number of participants: 11
  Lead member: Leslie Gates, Associate Professor, Art & Design

- **FLC on Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racism in America (Kendi, 2017)**
  Number of participants: 12
  Lead member: Dr. Marilyn Parrish, Associate Professor, Library and Dr. Rita Smith-Wade El, Professor, Psychology

Camp IDEA:
This week-long event is a joint program offered through the CAE, Instructional & Technology Support and the Office of Online Programs. Over the last academic year, over 25 faculty members attended Camp IDEA where strategies for incorporating innovative instructional methods and assessment strategies are taught. Camp IDEA is offered in January and May each year.

Open Education Week:
In conjunction with an informal group of faculty members across the campus, the CAE helped to plan a virtual conference called MVille Opens Up in support of Open Education Week in March 2018. During the week, MU faculty members offered seven virtual sessions through MU's Collaborate tool on a variety of topics related to Open Educational Resources. These sessions were publicized internationally through the Open Education Week website (www.openeducationweek.org). *112 people attended sessions during the week and 246 people have watched the recorded sessions online.* A similar event is being planned for 2019.

New Faculty Mentoring:
After talking with several early career faculty members, the need for a formal mentoring process was identified. Over the last decade, the CAE has mainly offered informal mentoring for new faculty members who requested it. Very few new faculty members, however, took advantage of this. In the Fall 2017, all new faculty members were be partnered with a tenured faculty member from another department. Mentors and mentees met regularly through the fall in an informal yet structured mentoring process. The program will continue for the new faculty arriving to campus in Fall 2018.

Lancaster Learns:
Planned as a collaborative activity with seven other institutions of higher education in Lancaster County, *Lancaster Learns* was created to promote quality teaching and learning by building capacity for evidence-based pedagogy and learner-centered instruction. Entering its fourth year, *Lancaster Learns* continues to grow. Over 170 faculty from participating institutions attended the daylong event with 11 Millersville faculty members presenting sessions. More than 25 Millersville faculty members attended the event in February 2018.

Professional Development sessions:
The CAE facilitated 38 face-to-face sessions this academic year with 403 faculty members attending sessions. This is a reduction from sessions and attendees from the 2016-2017 academic year. During the 2016-2017 academic year, the CAE partnered with the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management to promote their Maraudership Professional Development Series. Last year, the office offered 22 Maraudership sessions and their

numbers were included in the 2016-2017 sessions and attendees. Their programs were not included in the 2017-2018 CAE attendance data.

Academic Year	Number of sessions	Attendees	Average attendance	Unique attendees
2013-2014	60	448	7.46	128
2014-2015	26	283	10.88	77
2015-2016	35	370	10.57	134
2016-2017	60	765	12.75	215
2017-2018	38	403	10.61	139

The topics for face-to-face sessions included:

Fall 2017	Spring 2018
• Video Assignments with YouSeeU • Embracing Internationalization in Your Classroom • Preparing Student Learning Outcome Reports • Proposing a New Academic Program • Advising Students • Therapy Dog Meet & Greet • Assessing General Assessment Across The Curriculum • ArcGIS Online: Its GIS Resources and Collaboration Potential • Introducing Qualtrics, MU's Online Survey Research Tool • Dismantling White Supremacy in the Archives • Universal Design for Learning Workshop • Study Abroad • Creating an Inclusive Learning Experience for Students • Middles States Accreditation • Transform your Course with Design Thinking Workshop • Office 365: The Coolest Tools You Never Knew You Had	• Three Reasons to Integrate Made in Millersville into your Syllabus • Workshopping Targeted Messaging • Can Our Students Think & Write? • Replacing ArcGIS with ArcGISPro • State of Assessment Luncheon • What does iGen Mean for Instructors of First-Year Students? • Understanding the Millersville Student • Survey Says…What do our students taking online classes think about their experience? • The Credit-Bearing Internship Program at Millersville University • Choice in the College Classroom • Develop and lead an MU-Guided Study Abroad Program • Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning in G2 Courses • Zoom Preview

Adjunct Orientation Workshop:
As part of the newly negotiated collective bargaining unit, the University is required to offer an orientation to all new adjuncts. To expand on this professional development opportunity, the CAE offered a workshop for all adjuncts. The session was offered in August 2017 and was planned with the assistance of MU-APSCUF. Another Adjunct Orientation is being planned for August 2018.

Monday Morning Mentors:
In addition to these face-to-face sessions, the Center offers "Monday Morning Mentors" through a subscription service with Magna Publication. These short, online sessions were available on-demand each Monday and *over 330 faculty members* attended one of the 30

online mentor sessions offered through the academic year. **This represents a 40% growth over last year's viewership.**

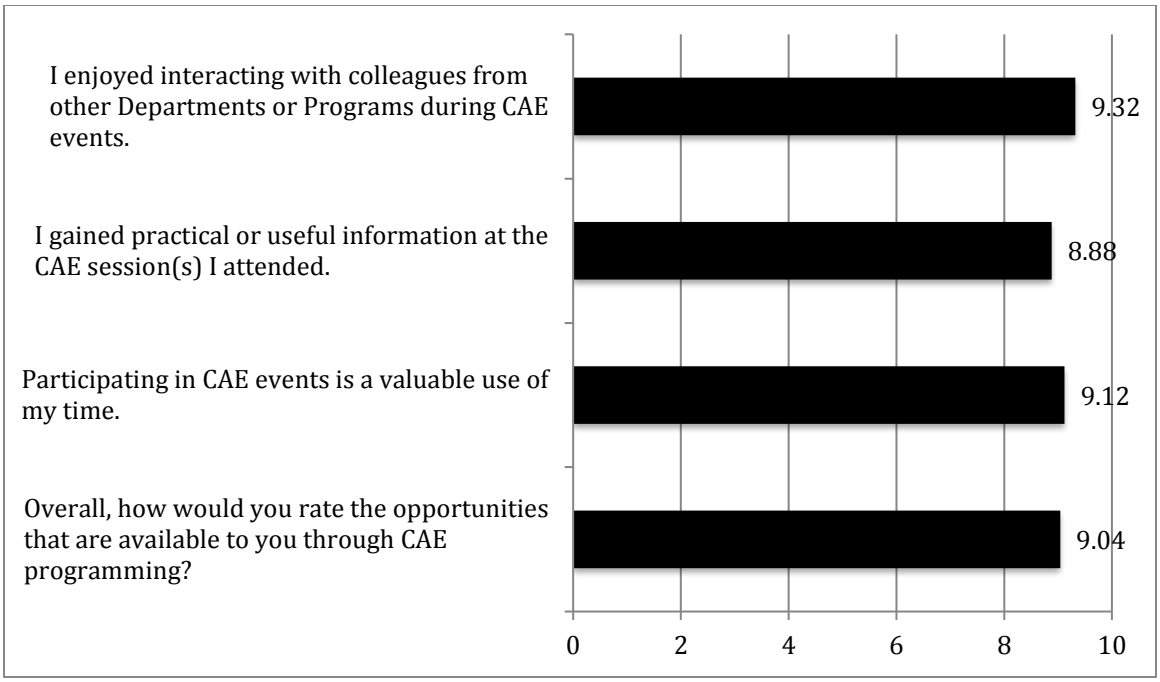
Teaching Professor and Online Classroom Newsletters:
In Fall 2016, the CAE began subscribing to the Teaching Professor and Online Classroom newsletters. These newsletters offer targeted support for collegiate faculty in both face-to-face and online classrooms. Access to digital copies of the newsletters was tracked over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year. These newsletters were accessed 150 times over the course of the year.

Center for Academic Excellence website:
During the 2015-2016 academic year, the CAE began a focused expansion of the Center for Academic Excellence web page. Prior to the 2015-2016 academic year, the CAE web page was mainly used to communicate the face-to-face sessions being offered. From the end-of-the-year survey from 2014-2015, several respondents asked for more teaching and learning information on the site. Targeted pages were added to broaden faculty members' understanding of important topics related to the roles on campus (formative assessment, growth mindset, syllabus design, etc.). As new pages were published, faculty members on campus were notified via email. A recurring feature called the Innovative Practices Spotlight was also added which identified faculty who were taking risks with their instructional strategies.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, website traffic on the CAE website was monitored. Over that time, the CAE website has been viewed *3747 times*. **This represents a growth of over 45% compared to website traffic from the 2016-2017 academic year.**

	Aug. 2017	Sept. 2017	Oct. 2017	Nov. 2017	Dec. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	March 2018	April 2018
Total views	238	801	595	287	46	87	679	580	434
Unique views	192	466	383	228	20	31	416	420	315

Faculty Perceptions of the Center for Academic Excellence:
Looking at the data from the year-end survey that was sent out in May 2018, the events offered by the CAE are valued by faculty both for their professional development and for their connection to the campus community.


I enjoyed interacting with colleagues from other Departments or Programs during CAE events.
9.32
I gained practical or useful information at the CAE session(s) I attended.
8.88
Participating in CAE events is a valuable use of my time.
9.12
Overall, how would you rate the opportunities that are available to you through CAE programming?
9.04
0
2
4
6
8
10