

Director's Report to the Task Force on Teaching Excellence
University of North Carolina, Pembroke
Jan. 20, 2022

Our Mission: Through mentoring, sharing best practices, and connecting with the community, the Teaching & Learning Center develops and sustains the ideas, activities, enthusiasm, and culture that foster and recognize quality teaching and learning at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke.

Our Vision: The Teaching & Learning Center will aspire to achieve quality in instruction by identifying, cultivating, and putting into practice effective and innovative pedagogies. Increasing faculty participation in all efforts and utilizing technology to our advantage, the TLC will enhance support for and unite faculty, students, and staff in enriching teaching and learning.

Our Core Values:

- We believe in supporting all faculty as they develop themselves into highly effective instructors and mentors, able to foster the success of all students as lifelong learners.
- We believe in fostering collaboration, communication, and community.
- We believe in assuring confidentiality in individualized consultations.
- We believe in prioritizing on-campus expertise and resources while connecting with external expertise and resources as needed.
- We believe in utilizing effective technology for the betterment of teaching and learning.

Our Goals:

- The TLC will aspire to achieve quality in instruction through effective and innovative pedagogies.
- The TLC will enhance support for faculty, students, and staff in enriching teaching and learning.
- The TLC will unite faculty, students, and staff in enriching teaching and learning.

Administrative:

- Disburse grants to faculty for the purposes of enhancing teaching and learning, in consultation with the Task Force on Teaching Excellence and the provost and in alignment with University fiscal policies
 - With the approval of interim Provost Zoe Locklear, the TLC has allocated \$5,150 to Michele Fazio (English, Theatre & World Languages) as recommended by the Task Force in March 2021 as a Grant for Excellence in Teaching & Learning focused on first-generation student success
 - With the approval of Provost Locklear, the TLC has allocated \$350 to Laura Hakala (English, Theatre & World Languages) as recommended by the Task Force in September as a Grant for Syllabus Transformation focused on ENG 2230: American Literature before 1865.

- The TLC continues to seek Provost Locklear's approval to allocate Grants for Excellence in Teaching & Learning to Camille Goins *et al.* (\$18,550) and Amy Purser Medina and Jennifer Wells (\$11,288.30) as recommended by the Task Force in March and November 2021, respectively.
- Solicit proposals for Directed Academic Leave, facilitate their review by the Task Force, and make recommendations to the provost
 - Provost Locklear has suspended, until further notice, the acceptance of applications and the granting of Directed Academic Leave.
- Implement, with Nicolette Campos, a year-long mentoring program to support new and early career academic employees
 - Mentors and mentees will take part in a Professional Development Institute for Student Success on Feb. 17.
- Participate in the University's AAC&U-sponsored ePortfolio Institute team in support of campus-wide implementation of ePortfolios for students' professional success
 - Miko Nino and I published "The 6A ePortfolio Model: Professionalizing Learning in Higher Education" in *IJEP: International Journal of ePortfolio* (vol. 11, no. 2, 2021, pp. 95-107), available [online](#), and we will present "Connecting Career Learning and Career Readiness through ePortfolios" at the Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Virginia Tech on Feb. 10.
- Facilitate the redesign of courses and/or the creation of new learning activities or modules, up to six in total, to fulfill students' Indigenous Cultures & Communities requirement for graduation, beginning in fall 2022
 - I am awaiting the provost's approval to convene a Shared Interest Group of seven faculty who have expressed interest in redesigning their courses for ICC designation.
- Host 10 professional development opportunities for faculty
 - Delays in ordering and shipping and postponement of the spring semester have pushed back the launch of the TLC's Third Fridays Book Club until February.
- Continue to foster high levels of participant satisfaction and belonging
 - Given that the TLC has not hosted any professional development activities to date, no participant evaluations have been gathered.