MISSION

To engage faculty in research-based practices that innovate and enhance their teaching, resulting in clear and measurable advances in student learning.

The CRTLE mission is to engage faculty in research-based practices that innovate and enhance their teaching, resulting in clear and measurable advances in student learning. The Center remains at the cutting edge of teaching and learning advances in online and on-campus environments to address the deep structured, logical thinking, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of students in today’s technological world. The Center’s goal is to prepare and advance university teaching so that each UTA student is highly prepared for the workplace of the future.

What we do:

- Transform and Innovate Teaching by Collaborating with Faculty
- Provide Faculty with Resources and Services
- Support Innovative Technology and Research-Based Teaching Approaches
Administration and Staff

**Dr. Ann Cavallo**  
Assistant Vice Provost and Director of CRTLE  
Distinguished University Professor of Science Education

**Dr. Andrew M. Clark**  
QEP Director and Associate Director of CRTLE  
Associate Professor Department of Communication

**Susan Dequeant**  
Associate Director, Center of Service Learning and Program  
Lead, Maverick Advantage Faculty Engagement (MAFE)

**Dr. Beth Fleener**  
Senior Teaching Innovation Research Associate  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education

**Dr. Nali Kim**  
Teaching Innovation Research Associate

**Lucinda Buhrkuhl**  
Coordinator II, Special Programs

**Nakesha Brown**  
Coordinator II, Special Programs  
Administrative Assistant CRTLE and Project Coordinator NSF Grant Programs

**Jamie Williams**  
Administrative Assistant, Program Coordinator UTA Noyce Programs
Student Interns and GRAs 2020-21

Nirbhay Sharma  
Student Intern, CRTLE

Jacqueline Solis  
Student Intern, CRTLE

Michelle Nguyen  
Student Intern, CRTLE

Monisha Ahoka  
GRA NSF Grant Programs

Lily Tanner  
Graduate Student Intern, CSL

Mayanda Serhan  
Student Intern, CSL

Taranjeeth Dinesh  
GRA NSF Grant Programs

CRTLE Faculty Facilitators 2020-21

Dr. Amy Austin  
Department of Modern Languages,  
College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Robin Macaluso  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,  
College of Science

Dr. Kendra Wallis  
Department of Materials Science and Engineering,  
College of Science

Dr. Thomas Dombrowsky  
Undergraduate Nursing,  
College of Nursing and Health Innovation

Dr. Carla Amaro-Jimenez  
Curriculum and Instruction,  
College of Education
In the 2020-21 academic year, 2512 faculty, staff, and graduate students attended CRTLE sessions, trainings, and programs.

Out of the total attendees (N=2512), 40% (n=1671) were faculty attendees.
We surveyed faculty, staff, and graduate students and asked them “If you have participated in CRTLE programs, sessions, or events, multiple times, what prompted you to come back?”

“The content is excellent, and I am able to apply it to my teaching strategies. I am a better teacher because of the educational content.”

“Friendliness of leadership and other faculty, collaboration feeling, team atmosphere, felt cared for, felt that I was seen as an individual, being in a big academic system for the first time I felt less isolated, and I felt welcomed and respected.”

“Engaging with innovative ideas and not just reiterating traditional approaches.”

“I enjoyed the energy of participation with faculty across campus. I believe this participation has improved my teaching.”

“The high level of organization to these events but most is the value of each one of them. It has the information that I was looking for.”
Activities
Speaker Series Event

On April 16, 2021 in collaboration with the Division of Student Success, and the Division of Student Affairs, we welcomed Dr. Vincent Tinto to campus.

Dr. Tinto is a Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at Syracuse University and the former Chair of the Higher Education Program. Dr. Tinto spoke to all campus faculty and staff, and held sessions with faculty and graduate students, Campus Advisors, and the Division of Student Success and Division of Student Affairs.

CRTLE Faculty Lounge

Trading Teaching Tips and Triumphs

CRTLE Facilitators led monthly sessions to engage faculty in informal conversation and exploration of effective teaching strategies.

Example topics included:

- Strategies for teaching with groups/teams
- Making and using effective assessments
- Using virtual labs
- Promoting Inquiry teaching
- Engaging students
- Implementing technology
- Applying various applications in online, hybrid, and F2F teaching
Professional Development Seminars
Throughout the year CRTLE hosted a variety of seminars to support faculty and graduate students and promote teaching excellence. Examples of seminars included those listed below.

Inclusive Teaching Strategies Series

As educators, it is critically important to ensure we promote fair and equitable learning for all our UTA students. This webinar openly addressed issues of diversity and equity in teaching and shared inclusive teaching strategies.

Stranger (Semester) Things: The Sequel

In May 2020, we held an interactive session with faculty titled, Stranger (Semester) Things to reflect on the movement to all online course delivery due to Covid-19.

In 2021 we held a sequel to continue the reflection of the experiences in the delivery of online, hybrid, and socially distanced face-to-face courses.

Microsoft Teams for Teaching

We partnered regularly with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), Center for Distance Education (CDE) and Educational Technology Support Services (ETSS) to offer training for faculty on effectively using Microsoft Teams in their classrooms. This became all the more important when we prepared to deliver instruction in a hybrid format to start the fall semester.
**UT System Partnerships**

CRTLE team leaders met monthly with center directors from UT system universities. In summer 2021 the Center Directors collaborated to host a lunch and learn session. CRTLE’s session was held on July 8th on Inclusive Teaching and Classroom Management.

**Peer Observation**

We provide Peer Observation Training Seminars with Certificate, where attendees are educated and prepared to provide meaningful and impactful feedback on teaching through peer observation and then learn the reporting process. Formal Peer Observations of Teaching are required by the UT System at various stages in the tenure and post-tenure process.

Informal Observation/Consultation on teaching is conducted by our CRTLE Team members, CRTLE Facilitators, and members of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Informal observations/consultations are conducted with faculty to provide support and guidance on teaching upon request.

**Graduate Student Conference**

Our all-day annual Graduate Student Conference on Effective Teaching attracted students from a variety of colleges across the university. We ended the day with a session from the Graduate School focusing on the International Student Experience.
Creative Escapes

We were pleased to sponsor this unique seminar series once again for the university community, alumni, the community at large and guests to engage in exciting and interesting presentations by our outstanding UTA faculty members! This series is an opportunity to learn of the amazing work our colleagues are doing right here at UTA in a way that is informative and engaging – and to take a break from our everyday routines. All sessions were held in Microsoft Teams Live.

Creative Escapes: Astronomy and Space Exploration

Presenters
Dr. Nila Veerabathina, College of Science
Dr. Ramon Lopez, College of Science

Creative Escapes: The Psychology of Marketing

Presenters
Dr. Roger Gans, College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Ritesh Saini, College of Business

Creative Escapes: Music, Trauma, and Quality of Life

Presenters
Professor Jamar Jones, College of Liberal Arts
Professor Michael Bennett, School of Social Work

Creative Escapes: The Uniqueness of Our Brain

Presenters
Dr. Dan Levine, College of Science
Dr. Daniel Robinson, College of Education

Creative Escapes: Forensic Science Fact and Fiction

Presenters
Dr. Roxanne Zascavage, College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Neill Matheson, College of Liberal Arts
**CRTLE Education Seed Grant Competition**

The CRTLE and QEP Research Seed Grant Competition supports research that seeks to better understand and advance excellence in teaching and learning; and research that focuses on the assessment and enhancement of teamwork.

**Spring 2021 Seed Grant Awards**

*Decolonizing Explorations among Students of Social Work*

Anne Nordberg, *School of Social Work*  
$5,000

Kiva Harper, *School of Social Work*

De’An Roper, *School of Social Work*

*Social Work Faculty and Student Perspectives on Best Practices for Experiential Learning that Facilitates Multiculturalism*

Marie Salimbeni, *School of Social Work*  
$5,000

Jandel Crutchfield, *School of Social Work*

*The Effect of a New Instructional Technology on Student Achievement*

Christy Spivey, *College of Business*  
$2,500

**QEP Teamwork Research Grant Awards**

*The Voices of Migrant Families: Testimonio, Service Learning, and Community Translation*

Alicia Rueda-Acedo, *College of Liberal Arts*  
$2,500

*Utilizing Service Learning to Increase Student Engagement Post-Pandemic*

Jaya Davis, *College of Liberal Arts*  
$5,000

Holly Hungerford-Kresser, *College of Education*

*Developing and Implementing an Inter-professional Education Module on Identifying and Responding to Child Maltreatment*

Catherine A. LaBrenz, *School of Social Work*  
$5,000

Tracy Orwig, *School of Social Work*

Laura Kunkel, *College of Nursing and Health Innovation*

Micki Washburn, *School of Social Work*

Joo Hi Lee, *College of Education*  

$67,500 in grants awarded over two years to faculty in six colleges and schools resulting in conference presentations and publications.
Faculty Fellows Programs

**Collaborate UTA**

Collaborate UTA, provides undergraduate students with a competitive edge by assessing and enhancing a key skill that employers desire: teamwork.

Through the creation of a Student Teamwork Guide, development of Professional Learning Communities, and a Seed Grant Program to promote research, faculty and staff are working to develop innovative and effective ways to enhance and assess teamwork in the classroom and prepare our students for success during and after their time at UT Arlington.

**Maverick Advantage Faculty Engagement (MAFE) Program**

The Maverick Advantage Faculty Engagement (MAFE) Program engages, educates, prepares, and supports faculty on understanding what the Maverick Advantage is. It encourages faculty to integrate one or more of the Maverick Advantage activities into their academic courses, thereby giving students the opportunity to obtain Maverick Advantage experiences within their academic coursework.

**Center for Service Learning**

Service learning integrates community service into academic coursework, whereby students engage in classroom activities and reflection related to the performance of local service projects within the course.

More than a volunteer opportunity, service learning benefits both the student and the community partner through reciprocity of needs, which furthers the students' educational goals while promoting civic responsibility. From focused collaboration with classmates and the community partner, to practical, real-world application, along with reflection and assessment, the learning process becomes a much richer and well-rounded experience.”
E-Learning Transformational Model Project

Beginning in summer 2021, CRTLE leaders have worked with the Center for Distance Education to help faculty in five colleges design innovative online courses based on sound pedagogical practices as part of the university’s e-learning transformational certificate program. Meetings were held weekly and individually with faculty developing the courses and conducted training on various aspects of teaching and learning. CRTLE team members have also evaluated the courses using a CRTLE rubric designed to evaluate the pedagogical soundness and promote innovation of the courses.

CRTLE Faculty Showcase

Over 70 faculty, staff, and graduate students attended our CRTLE Faculty Showcase: A Celebration of Teaching Excellence. The event highlighted the innovative work being done in the classroom by the faculty fellows participating in our various programs. To view the event visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgsE82cdVtQ&ab_channel=CRTLEUTA