



Center for Research on Teaching
and Learning Excellence

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
Division of Faculty Affairs



CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON TEACHING AND
LEARNING EXCELLENCE (CRTLE)
ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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



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Lucinda Buhrkuhl

Coordinator II, Special Programs



Nakesha Brown

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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

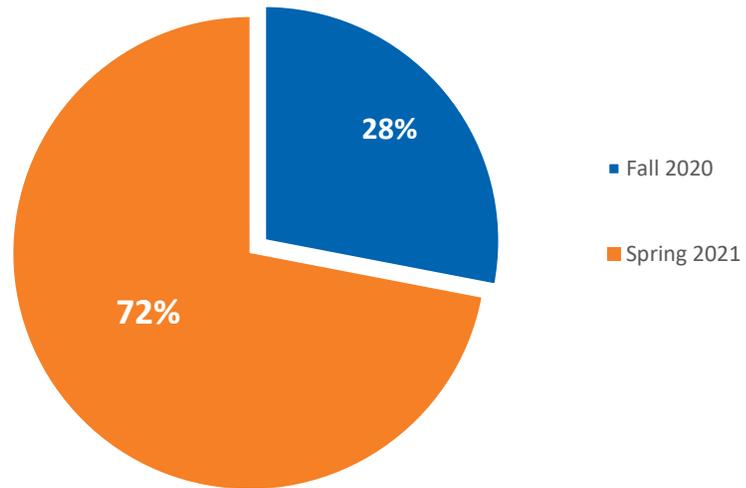


Dr. Carla Amaro-Jimenez

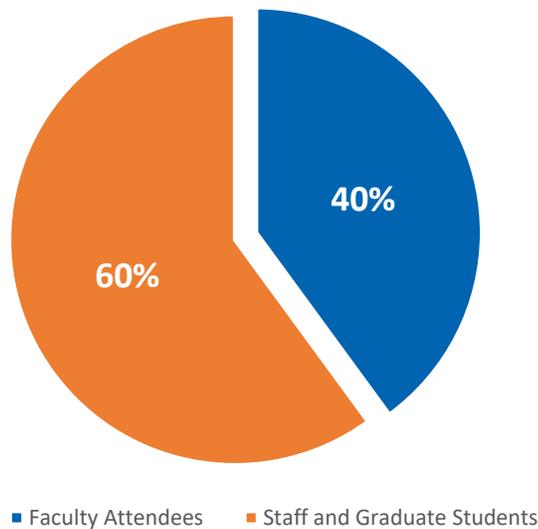
Curriculum and Instruction,
College of Education

Attendance Data

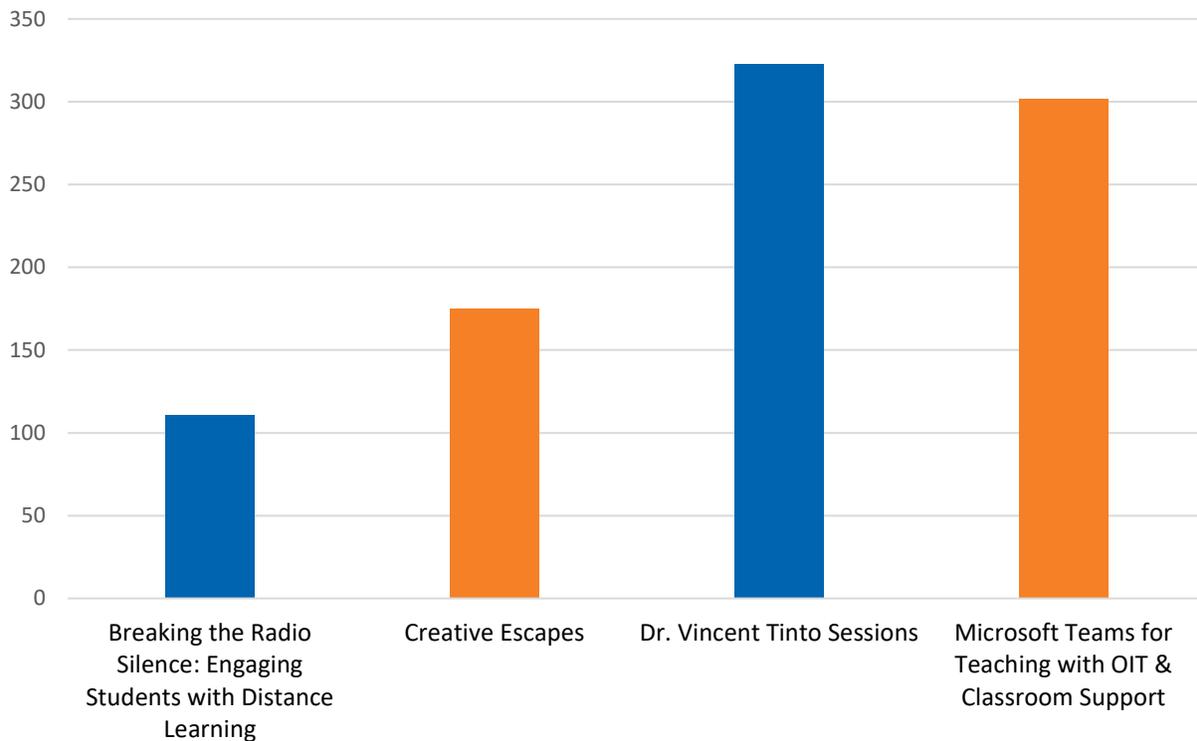
In the 2020-21 academic year, **2512** faculty, staff, and graduate students attended CRTLE sessions, trainings, and programs.



Out of the total attendees (N=2512), 40% (n=1671) were faculty



Most highly attended CRTLE Sessions and Events:



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



Inclusive Teaching Strategies Series

Three Session Series Now through Spring Semester

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



Stranger (Semester) Things: The Sequel

Reflecting on the All Campus Movement to Online, Hybrid, and Socially Distanced F2F Course Delivery Modalities Fall 2020

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



Are You Ready for the New Semester?

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.

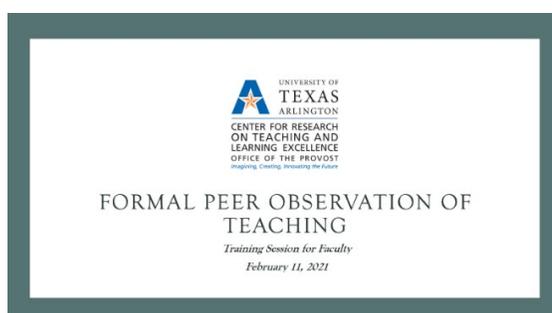
Peer Observation

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

Back by Popular Demand this Summer!

June 16 through August 11, 2021

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.

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

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*

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

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=5Ezcd1U0ab4&list=PLB11>





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Contact Us



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Website: <https://uta.edu/crtle>