



E-Newsletter for Faculty

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Development, and Diversity
Office of the Provost

January 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to a new semester and a new year. I hope you are feeling rested and rejuvenated after the winter break and are looking forward to a bustling spring schedule. There is a lot on the horizon in terms of training, funding resources, awards, and other events and opportunities that I'd like to share with you.

FEATURED NEWS

Recruiting, Retaining, and Recognizing Faculty

The Office of the Provost, in collaboration with the chairs of the faculty diversity committee and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, has extensively revised the webpages dedicated to [Recruiting, Retaining, and Recognizing Faculty](#). New content includes detailed guidance for faculty search committees to recruit diverse and excellent faculty.

Faculty Diversity Recruitment Initiative

The Faculty Diversity Recruitment Initiative encourages chairs and their deans/regional presidents to work together to strengthen the diversity of the faculty at Pitt. At this time, the Office of the Provost will provide financial support to Provost-area schools and campuses that have identified outstanding potential faculty from underrepresented groups. Learn more about the [Faculty Diversity Recruitment Initiative](#) and requirements for requesting funds.

NEW: Orientation for New Part-Time Faculty

This year, the Office of the Provost is working with the Center for Teaching and Learning to sponsor an orientation for new part-time faculty. This event will complement both the efforts of the schools and regional campuses to orient part-time faculty and the University's current program to orient new full-time faculty. This orientation is slated to occur twice a year: once in January and once in September. The first orientation for new part-time faculty will be held on January 14, 2020.

The Office of the Provost is excited to add this new event to our repertoire. This University-level orientation for new part-time faculty was developed in response to the efforts of Senate committees that have been focused, among other things, on strengthening the environment for part-time faculty.

Transition to Canvas

The University of Pittsburgh will transition to the Canvas Learning Management System during the 2019–2020 academic year. To prepare for this transition, the Teaching Center has created a number of resources and workshops available for instructors. Visit the [Canvas @ Pitt web pages](#) to learn more about this transition, how it will impact you in the coming months, and how you can find help.

Spring Faculty Development Workshop Series

Join us the first Monday of February, March, and April for workshops designed to develop your leadership skills. Upcoming topics include assessment of doctoral student mentoring, faculty performance reviews, and mental health accommodations. More information about these upcoming workshops and registration information can be found under [Professional Development Offerings](#) on the Office of the Provost website.

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops

The University Center for Teaching and Learning has a wide selection of workshops on the schedule for the spring semester. Courses include an “Introduction to Canvas” series, “Teaching Inclusively,” “Mentoring Academy” sessions, “Making Your Digital Materials Accessible & Inclusive,” and “Becoming a Grading Guru.” [Visit the events calendar to see all available workshops and to register.](#)

Open Education Resource Grants

The Office of the Provost is inviting proposals from faculty for projects to adapt, adopt, and/or create [open education resources](#) for an existing course. Proposals are due by Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Find more information on funding range, eligibility, and more on the [OER Funding Application page](#).

Course Incubator

The goal of the [Course Incubator](#) project is to radically redesign large enrollment classes to increase the success of our students. [The first awards](#), made in May 2018, are allowing faculty in Biology, Economics and Chemistry to focus on transforming courses during 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 to achieve a better learning experience for students. The second round of awards will be made in April, and work will commence in the summer of 2020.

Innovation in Education Awards

All full-time and part-time faculty on all Pitt campuses are invited to submit proposals for the Innovation in Education Awards. The deadline for proposal submission is January 31, 2020. [Read the request for proposals](#) and view [past projects](#) funded by Innovation in Education Awards.

Awarding Diversity in the Curriculum

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2019 Provost's Award for Diversity in the Curriculum:

- Karen Gilmer, Department of Theatre Arts, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
- Tuangtip Klinbubpa-Neff, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
- Lori Delale-O'Connor, Center for Urban Education, School of Education
- Kevin Binning, Department of Psychology, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
- Erica McGreevy, Department of Biological Sciences, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
- Chandralekha Singh, Discipline-based Science Education Research Center, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

The award formally recognizes faculty's efforts to embrace inclusive teaching practices and integrate diversity and inclusion concepts into their course and curriculum. Read more about this most recent class of honorees and their good work in [@Pitt](#) and the [University Times](#).

Strategic Plan

The Chancellor has launched the strategic planning process for the [Plan for Pitt 2025](#). I encourage you to become engaged in this effort and participate in surveys, focus groups, and other events designed to gather feedback on what success means for the University across all of Pitt's campuses.

NCFDD Survey

The [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](#) (NCFDD) survey of individual Pitt members has closed. Thank you to all who participated in the survey, providing us with essential data about the value of NCFDD to Pitt faculty, postdocs, and grad students. In addition, your feedback will help to inform our decision about renewing Pitt's institutional membership with the organization.

Spotlight on Women Leaders

The [Spotlight on Women Leaders](#) program, created by the Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns, celebrates the women mentors, role models, and leaders who have dedicated themselves to the advancement of the Pitt community through personal and professional effort. These women are featured in an ongoing series of Spotlight videos, which are updated throughout the year. [View the latest Spotlight videos](#), and [submit your nominations](#) for the Spotlight on Women Leaders program at any time.

I will send out another newsletter later this term with updates on programs and opportunities, but you can always find faculty resources and information on the Faculty Affairs, Development, and Diversity information section of the Office of the Provost website: provost.pitt.edu/faculty.

Best wishes for a productive spring semester!

Laurie

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