



E-Newsletter for Faculty

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

October 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The fall semester is underway, and you are certainly back in the thick of things, but I want to take a moment to welcome you to the 2019–2020 academic year. I'm looking forward to the many activities we will participate in together over the next several months, and I'd like to highlight some of the events, award and funding deadlines, and other opportunities available to Pitt faculty this semester. Read on for more information.

FEATURED NEWS

Provost Fellows for Faculty

I am pleased to announce that Provost Ann Cudd has agreed to support a new **Provost Fellows for Faculty** program to assist with ongoing efforts to enhance the Pitt experience for all faculty and strengthen the Pitt faculty community. We plan to appoint one or more Provost Fellows each academic year, and the appointments are potentially renewable.

This year we have appointed two Provost Fellows. They are Dr. Frits Pil, Professor of Organizations and Entrepreneurship at the Katz Graduate School of Business, and Dr. Laurel Roberts, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

The Provost Fellows will work to support and strengthen a variety of programs and events designed to advance professional and career development opportunities for faculty and to bolster faculty resources like our membership in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD), the Center for Mentoring, and resources for recruiting and retaining an excellent and diverse faculty.

Professional Development Workshops

All faculty are invited to join us on the first Monday of every month, from noon–1:30 p.m. at 211 David Lawrence Hall, or via livestream, for the Office of the Provost professional development workshop series for faculty. The fall series kicked off with a workshop on "Diversifying the Faculty" on October 7. Upcoming workshops include "Mentoring Relationships that Lead to Doctoral Student Success" on

November 4 and “Me? Bias?” on December 2. Registration is required for all workshops. For more information on presenters and to register, [visit the Professional Development Offerings webpage](#).

ACC Academic Leaders Network Program

Now in its second year, the ACC Academic Leaders Network (ALN) program supports leader development and hones managerial skills for faculty who aspire to additional leadership roles in higher education. The ALN program is designed to facilitate cross-institutional networking and collaboration among academic leaders while building leadership capacity for the participating institutions. Each ACC institution can nominate up to five faculty participants in administrative roles, and the entire cohort attend sessions at three different universities throughout the academic year.

Pitt was proud to host the first session of the 2019–2020 ACC ALN on October 3–5. Close to 90 faculty from across the ACC—including five Pitt faculty—heard from senior leaders in higher education, participated in skill building workshops, formed cross-institution teams to collaborate on projects, and toured Pitt’s campus.

The next call for nominations will be in the spring. I encourage department and division chairs, assistant or associate deans, and faculty in other administrative or leadership roles to consider participating. Interested faculty members should talk to their respective deans and campus presidents about the program and the opportunity to be nominated for the next ALN. Read more about the program and see Pitt’s current ACC ALN faculty participants on the [Academic Leadership Development Web page](#).

Awarding Diversity in the Curriculum

The Provost’s Award for Diversity in the Curriculum recognizes faculty who have taught a modified course or revised curricula to strengthen diversity and inclusion. Any full-time or part-time Pitt faculty member who has participated in diversity initiatives at the University may apply for this award, which includes a \$2,000 cash prize. We encourage faculty members who have embraced inclusive teaching practices to submit an application. Eligibility guidelines, the application form, and more information are available on the [Provost’s Award for Diversity in the Curriculum webpage](#). The application deadline is October 18, 2019.

Call for Proposals: Course Incubator

The Course Incubator project provides funding to Pitt faculty to assist in the transformative redesign of large enrollment courses. Pre-proposals that outline innovative initial ideas for course redesign are due on **November 4, 2019**. This funding is meant to support initial planning and proposal development, as well as development and implementation activities. You can read about the 2018 Course Incubator projects in chemistry, economics, and biology, and find information on the 2019 eligibility guidelines, submission of pre-proposals, and later full proposal deadlines on the [Course Incubator page](#).

Teaching Center Workshops

The University Center for Teaching and Learning is offering a wide selection of workshops for all Pitt instructors throughout the fall semester. Courses include “Developing a Teaching Philosophy

Statement,” “Developing a Teaching Portfolio,” “Mentoring Academy” sessions, and “Blackboard: Using the Grade Center.” [View the events calendar to see all available workshops and to register.](#)

ULS Workshops

This academic year the University Library System is offering workshops on a variety of topics, including “Introduction to ArcGIS,” “A Beginner’s Introduction to Web-scraping,” “Demonstrating Research Impact Using Citation Analysis Tools,” “White Privilege in Information,” and many others. [See the ULS Events calendar for details and to register.](#)

New Faculty

I’m pleased to welcome new faculty members to our ranks this semester, and that we are continuing to build diversity into our community of scholars. Going forward, a number of exciting new hiring initiatives that emphasize diversity are underway for Pitt faculty. One of these is the [Latinx cluster-hiring initiative](#), aimed at significantly increasing the number of faculty focused on Latinx issues to better meet the needs of our Latinx-identifying population. The Provost has also funded the Faculty Diversity Recruitment initiative designed to help Provost-area departments, schools, and regional campuses when they have opportunities to hire exceptional faculty from diverse backgrounds.

Year of Creativity

Welcome to [Year of Creativity](#)! Provost Cudd is encouraging the creative spark found in all of us in this fifth in a series of [“Year of…”](#) themes. See what your colleagues have to say about the power of creativity from a faculty perspective in this [video from the Pitt Center for Creativity](#).

I hope your fall semester continues to be full and productive. Please watch for another newsletter later this term, but you can always keep up to date on programs, initiatives, and other Faculty Affairs, Development, and Diversity information on the Office of the Provost website: provost.pitt.edu/faculty.

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