

# An Update from the Provost

## Office of Academic Affairs Newsletter

### NEWS

#### NORTH ADMIN BUILDING: OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS EXCITED TO FILL OFFICES

The Provost's office is now located in the S.J. Atkins North Administration building, and Academic Affairs is excited to welcome staff into the renovated building. David Wade, Academic Program and Curriculum Director, as well as the Office of Institutional Research, with Andrea Brown, Song Gao, and Joshua Vieira, will be able to move to the central Academic Affairs Office in the beginning of April.

#### NEW ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT DIRECTOR

The selection process for a new Office of Academic Assessment Director has come to an end. Laura Jimenez-Snelson has accepted the position and will join us from Utah Valley University in mid-April in the North Admin building. Jimenez-Snelson lived and studied in Peru and speaks several languages. She also studied at Brigham Young University where she received her M.S. in Education and her doctorate degree in Education: Instructional Psychology and Technology, with a concentration in Measurement, Assessment, Research, and Evaluation. She has published and presented numerous papers in educational assessment, measurement, and student success, as well as in social research issues such as educational equality and research among indigenous people. Laura Jimenez-Snelson enjoys volleyball and is also an excellent salsa dancer.

#### SPRING 2016 FACULTY LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL) sponsored its first ever Faculty Learning Community (FLC) during Spring semester 2016. We sent an email invitation for volunteers to participate in the community to all faculty members (full time, part time, and adjunct) in December 2015, hoping to get 15 faculty to participate. We had 18 faculty volunteers by the following day and had to close registration and turn away others who wanted to join the Spring 2016 FLC.

The FLC is using the book *Teaching Naked: How Moving Technology out of Your College Classroom Will Improve Student Learning* by Jose Bowen as the basis for our discussion this semester. We've met together five times so far this semester and have discussed 2-3 chapters of the book at each meeting. FLC group members have volunteered to lead the discussion on each chapter, and we set up a Canvas course to continue the discussion in between meetings.

CTL provides copies of the book to each member of the FLC, as well as drinks and light refreshments for FLC meetings. It has been a wonderful experience this semester and we intend to continue these faculty learning communities with new faculty groups and different topics for discussion each semester.

#### INDIVIDUAL FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIONS

CTL staff members would love to work with individual faculty members and departments in redesigning their

courses to integrate more effective active learning strategies and/or integrate new learning technologies in your courses. Summer is a great time to work on these type of projects. CTL staff has consulted with over 50 faculty members since last August and met with the Education Department last month regarding how to teach in a technology-enhanced classroom. For more information, contact either Bruce Harris ([bruce.harris@dixie.edu](mailto:bruce.harris@dixie.edu)) or Scott Allen ([scott.allen@dixie.edu](mailto:scott.allen@dixie.edu)).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2ND ANNUAL TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE

The Center for Teaching & Learning and the Teaching and Learning Committee has done a great job this year putting together the Teaching & Learning Conference. Friday, April 8th, has been designated as a professional development day. All faculty are encouraged to attend the conference, and may make other arrangements for their classes. This is a wonderful opportunity to watch colleagues present and to discuss, reflect, and collaborate with faculty. For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/zs69xjd>

### DR. RANDALL BASS PRESENTATIONS

The Commissioner's Office in the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) has arranged for four presentations for faculty and staff throughout the state by Dr. Randall Bass, English professor and Executive Director, Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship at Georgetown University. Dr. Bass is a dynamic presenter whose research, interests, and expertise lie in the areas of social pedagogies; scholarship of teaching and learning; digital technology and liberal education; general education, e-portfolios and reflection; among others. He was the keynote

speaker for the USHE Educated Person's Conference in 2014, and was so well received that the Commissioner's Office wanted to invite him back to Utah. It will be well worth your time to learn from Dr. Bass.

Dr. Bass will be giving four presentations on April 5, 6, & 7 at Utah State University, Salt Lake Community College, Utah Valley University, and Southern Utah University on different topics.

All of his presentations will be available via live streaming at the website below on the day of his presentations:

<http://www.higheredutah.org/bassconversations>

Each of his presentations will be recorded and available online following his presentations at the link above. For additional details and information about Dr. Randy Bass, click on the link below: <http://bit.ly/1T6CD4I>

### DID YOU KNOW?

- We have 30 baccalaureate majors, 63 different degrees, 53 emphases, 26 minors and 14 certificates, for a total of 156 academic programs (see approved programs)
- Over the last two years, 72 academic program proposals have been submitted (see program tracker). Thanks to everyone for all the hard work in this effort!
- We have over 1600 approved courses and growing!

### ADD TO THE NEWSLETTER

The Provost's office would like to invite all those who would like to add to the next Provost's update to please send a request to [mercier@dixie.edu](mailto:mercier@dixie.edu) with your contact information and the information you would like featured.