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Office of the Provost **PROVOST'S CORNER**

Vol. 2, Issue 2

FROM THE PROVOST AND ACADEMIC DEAN'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues,

At NPS, we like to say that we are committed to teaching excellence. What does that mean? To get an understanding of NPS's dedication to teaching, one can check out the recent [Teaching and Learning Commons Year in Review](#) and see examples such as:



1. *Instructional development for faculty.* The NPS pilot program on Distance Learning Quality represents a two-year effort to improve collaboration, communication, delivery, and feedback in remote-instruction classes. Faculty experimented then shared their results through live and recorded workshops. Instructional designers researched, created, and widely disseminated best practices.

The knowledge gained from this effort proved invaluable when NPS had to rapidly, and repeatedly, switch to remote instruction due to the pandemic. As Associate Provost Lester states, this project contributed across campus to improved "course preparation, content organization, learning outcomes and assessment, student engagement, course website design and navigation, teaching and learning technology, use of media and accessibility."

2. *Skill-building for students.* The Graduate Writing Center developed dozens of Quick Clips and Tips to make self-paced learning more accessible and enjoyable. These include infographics, short videos, "chunked" series, and multi-media resources covering excellent abstracts, advisor advice, digital literacy, math and numbers, attribution best practices, and more. The how-to-dos can be so tricky (at least for me, even with spellcheck). Trial and error are not our friends. The GWC developed multi-media lessons with games on how to avoid inadvertent plagiarism (I take verbatim notes so that I don't accidentally paraphrase my paraphrase back into the original without quotations. Without realizing it, we tend to think the original phrasing we read sounds best, a tendency social psychologists would call "priming").
3. *Innovation.* TLC provided grants to the NPS community to develop innovative teaching tools and practices. In one, a virtual reality (VR) 3 white board, provided an innovative

solution to a commonly cited problem in hybrid instruction. In another, an online assessment tool was developed as a dashboard for remote students.

4. *New outdoor classrooms.* These have been popular with faculty and students, whether due to Covid safety concerns or simply a change of scenery. After selecting sites and equipping them, TLC shared their capabilities and how to reserve them for regularly scheduled classes. Tips help faculty make the most of teaching in outdoor environments. P.S., these outdoor classrooms can also be scheduled for meetings.

In my message in the *TLC Year in Review*, I shared insightful advice from a few NPS award-winning instructors, including Professor Frank Kragh, who states: "Teaching is very difficult to do well and invariably after every lecture I think about the things I could have done better." In the end, NPS's promise to teaching excellence should not be just about faculty teaching well, it must be a commitment by all faculty, students, and staff to work together to improve how we teach and learn.

V/R
Scott

NPS...NEXT TRANSFORMATION UPDATE



The Winter Quarter finds us deeply engaged in the strategic planning that led us through the SPEAR Process and now leads us toward the Appreciative Inquiry process.

During the out brief for the Strategic Planning for Execution: Assessment and Risk (SPEAR) Workshop on 19–20 January, President Rondeau highlighted the need for a Research Strategy and an Education Strategy. These are the implementation plans that nest under the developing NPS Strategy and Vision and will turn future vision into reality.

There are other strategies that will also emerge from the continued refinement of these plans. The purpose of these plans is to provide focus, guide decisions, and align activities to priorities. The ongoing work across the LOEs nests neatly within this framework as the activities today are integrated and aligned to achieve the desired position described by the effort expended during SPEAR. Collectively, this forms the body of plans to operationalize the change we seek through the transformation, as described in the strategic plan.

We look to prioritize the efforts for LOEs into phased implementation with priority towards accelerating towards a One University organizational design by Spring. It remains for us now to continue our engagement on the issues that matter, to receive and consider feedback, and to actively solicit participation on an ongoing basis.

Some of the LOE Leads are already broadening their spheres of engagement. LOE 1.1, for instance, has met with several faculty groups toward soliciting input on the future organization of programs at NPS. Other LOEs have plans to do much the same. Our next immediate steps will include continued in-progress reviews for each of the lines of effort, and

then engagement with the campus on the decisions that flow from those IPRs to allow the President and me to make decisions that move the campus forward.

For anyone who is still looking for a way to become involved, [the Leads, Objectives, and Tasks for each LOE are listed on the NPS Next Wiki pages](#), so feel free to take a look and contact the person who is leading the effort in the area of your greatest concern.



MEET GEAC'S NEW COORDINATOR OF EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

The Graduate Education Advancement Center (GEAC) is pleased to welcome Ana Eckhart to the team. An experienced instructional designer at NPS, Ana joins GEAC to provide direct support to all NPS faculty as our new Coordinator of Educational Innovation.

In her new role, Ana aims to empower faculty by providing one-on-one support to experiment with and incorporate new and existing technologies into courses to support quality learning experiences.

Ana will support GEAC's role within the TLC, providing resources for faculty to investigate new classroom technologies to support teaching and learning.

Finally, with access to graphic design, video, and programming resources at GEAC, engaged faculty will have their needs translated into creative, effective, and engaging multimedia solutions.

Contact Ana at ana.eckhart@nps.edu.

EDUCATION GRANTS OPPORTUNITY FOR NPS TEACHING COMMUNITY



The [Teaching and Learning Commons](#) (TLC) would like to remind the NPS teaching community that submissions for project proposals funded by AY 22 [Success Through Effective Assessment of Learning](#) (SEAL) education grants are still open.

The SEAL education grants look for projects that expand assessment practices to measure student learning—specifically the acquisition and application of knowledge skills and attitudes, as well as professional competencies, demonstrated by the achievement of educational outcomes. This is a great opportunity for instructors to explore new tools and emerging technologies, approaches, and teaching strategies to expand assessment practices to measure student learning at NPS.

[Visit the SEAL website](#) to learn more about the SEAL funding opportunity and how to submit a project proposal. The deadline for proposals submissions is February 15th, 2022.



COVID-19 UPDATES

For specific information on Coronavirus for university faculty, students and staff, and the latest updates from NPS leadership, [visit the NPS community's COVID-19 website](#).

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 21: Presidents' Day

Mar 7-9: [CEE LCSS Workshop](#)

Mar 15: [Winter Quarter Awards Ceremony](#)

Mar 25: [Winter Quarter Graduation Ceremony](#)

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AT THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

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If you would like to submit an item for consideration in future Provost Corners, [click here](#).