

February 15, 2022

Dear colleagues,

We've started the spring semester with a bang! We've been able to connect via our "welcome back" open forum discussions, enjoy the celebratory opening of the Academic Hub, and share in great successes such as the Mellon grant awarded to Professors Deanne Grant and Janine Fitzgerald. Last week's announcement of the Nursing Collaborative with CU Anschutz signals a new phase of FLC's strategic development and growth, and positions FLC as a leader in creating innovative programs that serve our region. With all of this big news, we could easily overlook our important regular business. Allow me to report out on the other activities we have underway, with this update taking the form of a Provost Newsletter similar to the one circulated at the end of last semester. I'll continue to use a Newsletter to provide a monthly list-like overview of Academic Affairs projects—we'll experiment with the formatting and features (note the features at the end, for example).

Faculty Salary Committee

- The Faculty Salary committee, comprised of FLC Senators, has been analyzing the results of the salary survey distributed at the end of last semester. The committee is creating a report that presents the survey findings in a comprehensive and transparent fashion; the committee will share their report with campus shortly.

Dean's Review Planning

- As part of our new administrative review processes, the Dean's personnel review is being structured and will be launched after the Provost's personnel review. Sample survey questions have already been shared with the Senate Executive Committee and the process is being aligned with HR best practices.

Outdoor Learning Pavilion

- Our outdoor classroom tents will become permanent in the form of an Outdoor Learning Pavilion! We have secured a large donor gift to move forward with our ideas for a new Pavilion and indigenous garden next to CSWS. The Pavilion will be part of a larger outdoor learning campus plan that includes shade structures and garden spaces. We will hold open forums to discuss these ideas—get ready for fun conversations ahead!

Strategic Plan Refresh

- The President is holding sessions gathering ideas on how best to refresh the Strategic Plan, given that we've had a global pandemic interrupt its implementation. Meetings are being held with the Staff Council, Faculty SEC, and Council of Chairs. Please note that Academic Affairs has organized its initiatives in alignment with the Strategic Plan categories; see our [Strategic Plan implementation](https://www.fortlewis.edu/administrative-offices/academic-affairs/strategic-plan) outline on the [Academic Affairs home page](https://www.fortlewis.edu/administrative-offices/academic-affairs/strategic-plan) –full URL: <https://www.fortlewis.edu/administrative-offices/academic-affairs/strategic-plan>

Curriculum Analysis and Certificate Development

- As we work to improve the student's experience of our curriculum, we want to ensure that students can complete a "major plus" (a major plus a minor, a certificate, honors, etc). We want students to be able to explore other disciplines as part of their liberal arts degree or add new

interests or career skills to their major—and still graduate in four years. Chairs are working with their Departments to identify and resolve curricular bottlenecks, creating space for students to experience exciting “major plus” pathways. At the same time, we are designing new compact certificates that take advantage of existing courses and provide career skills training. Based on our enrollments in current FLC certificates, we predict students will be excited by and take advantage of additional certificates. This certificate work aligns with state guidance and national trends (see resources below).

Pedagogy Center (name TBD)

- We are looking forward to creating a new Pedagogy Center (name TBD) in the previous Algebra Alcove space in Jones Hall. Providing a space for our Mellon grant work and additional initiatives, the Center will feature inclusive, indigenous approaches to pedagogy. Save these dates to drop by, see the space, and discuss ideas for a Center (reminders will be sent):
 - Monday, February 28, 11:00-12:30
 - Tuesday, March 1, 3:00-4:30

Faculty & Staff Development and Support Space (name TBD)

- As we work to create more formalized forms of faculty and staff development, that work will be housed in the “glassed-in” room next to HR and the Provost’s Office. With your input, we will be designing a resource library and meeting space. And, a great idea has come in from the Faculty Support & Advancement Committee: the space can house Reading Circles, which we typically use to share ideas on best practices and emerging trends in higher education. More info to come on this exciting space, too!

“BULLET BRIEF” FROM THE DEANS:

What exciting work is underway in departments and programs this month?

School of Arts & Sciences: Dean Peters shares this month’s updates:

- Launch of Nursing partnership with CU Anschutz
- Mellon Foundation “Humanities for All Times” Grant awarded to Professors Deanne Grant and Janine Fitzgerald; FLC is one of 12 institutions awarded this prestigious grant and the only public college awarded the grant
- Performing Arts Department: Musical Theatre degree will launch in Fall 2022
- Engineering Department: successful ABET accreditation visit conducted in Fall 2021
- SkyWords Common Read Author announced: Pulitzer Prize Winner Natalie Diaz, author of *Postcolonial Love Poem*; look for more announcements of Common Read events, including Diaz’s reading on Tuesday, April 12

School of Business Administration: Dean Elias shares this month’s updates:

- Continued growth of the Center for Innovation, including a US Economic Development Administration grant totaling \$1.5 million dollars
- SOBA has begun serving as an Institute of Higher Education for the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade’s Rural Jump Start program
- Baird Wealth Management has signed on to serve as Hawk Tank’s Presenting Sponsor for the next three years
- Formal internships have been developed with Lockheed Martin
- SOBA is one of just 30 Colleges and Universities in the Country offering NASA’s Technology Transfer University program

- The SOBA Marketing faculty members successfully launched a student-run marketing agency through the Center for Innovation that had Pine Needle Mountaineering as its first client

School of Education: Dean Trujillo shares this month's updates:

- Avalanche courses offered through Adventure Ed lead to nationally recognized industry credential with AIARE
- Campbell Center awarded Child Care Operations Stabilization and Workforce Sustainability Grant
- Substitute Teaching Academy created (assist area schools with sub shortage and gain firsthand extended experience for Teacher Ed students)
- Quality Teacher Recruitment grant awarded (alternative paths to teacher licensure at graduate and undergraduate level)
- CEEDAR grant in partnership with Western State University to develop a paraprofessional pipeline for special education teachers

"PEDAGOGY CORNER": TEACHING RESOURCE from TLS

What does Teaching & Learning Services recommend as a pedagogy resource that provides insight and inspiration?

- [A pedagogy of kindness: the cornerstone of student learning and wellness](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/pedagogy-kindness-cornerstone-student-learning-and-wellness): "Studies have shown that increased feelings of connection and inclusion improve both student learning and student wellness." Read on for 12 easy ways that you can incorporate a pedagogy of kindness into your teaching practice! –full URL: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/pedagogy-kindness-cornerstone-student-learning-and-wellness>

"HIGHER ED SPOTLIGHT": TRENDS and CONTEXTS IN HIGHER ED

How does the work we engage in at FLC align with trends in higher education?

Our work on certificates addresses both the national trend towards certifying student progress AND the Colorado state interest in incentivizing workforce training through certificate structures:

- ["Opinion: Meet Certificates and 'Microcredentials'—they could be the future of higher education"](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-meet-certificates-and-microcredentials-they-could-be-the-future-of-higher-education/) (Sept 2021): read this article for a future-focused explanation of how/why higher education is embracing certificates and other credentials –full URL: <https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-meet-certificates-and-microcredentials-they-could-be-the-future-of-higher-education/>
- Colorado Department of Higher Education: [Higher Education Student Success Legislation \(HB21-1330\)](https://cdhe.colorado.gov/higher-education-student-success-legislation-hb21-1330): look at the new (Jan 2022) Student Success recommendations coming from the taskforce, which will start to dictate state funding initiatives –full URL: <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/higher-education-student-success-legislation-hb21-1330>

"GOOD NEWS" LIST OF PROJECTS

What exciting initiatives are faculty and staff engaged in, ranging from conference presentations to classroom innovations to student projects?

We will create a new listing of "good news" announcements and explanations of the projects you have underway. Please submit your individual projects to Provost@fortlewis.edu using this format:

- Name, department: project title, date, short explanation/description if needed

To get this type of listing started, we are pleased to announce that the following sabbatical research leaves were approved by the Board of Trustees this past Friday, February 11. Congratulations to our colleagues, who can now look forward to a well-deserved sabbatical!

School of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Keri Brandt Off, Professor of Sociology

- *What does it mean to be in "good relation"?: Indigenous-Settler Relations in Agriculture*

Dr. Callie Cole, Associate Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry

- *Chromatographic Explorations of Hop Biotransformation*

Dr. Andrew Gulliford, Professor of History

- *Great Landscapes of the American West: Discovering BLM's National Conservation Lands*

Dr. Jonathan Harvey, Associate Professor of Geosciences

- *Formalizing Student-led Geology Research Results into Journal Articles*

Dr. Kathy Hilimire, Associate Professor of Environment & Sustainability

- *Dryland Agriculture and Indigenous Food Sovereignty*

Dr. Joseph Ortega, Professor of Biology

- *Further Investigations into the Breeding Biology of Various Avian Species in Southwest Colorado*

Dr. Laura Scull, Professor of Mathematics

- *Category Theory Applied to Topology and Graph Theory*

Dr. Missy Thompson, Associate Professor of Health & Human Performance

- *The Role of Plantar Sensory Feedback in Plantar Pressure and Plantar Pressure Variability*

Dr. Natasha Tidwell, Associate Professor of Psychology

- *Revitalizing Lab-based, Student-Focused Psychological Research Opportunities*

Dr. Jesse Tune, Associate Professor of Anthropology

- *Reporting of Recent Archaeological Fieldwork by Fort Lewis College*

Dr. Laurie Williams, Professor of Physics & Engineering

- *Developing Local and Regional Solar Partnerships and Solar Education*

Dr. Megan Wrona, Associate Professor of Psychology

- *Refinement of Supplemental Materials for Abnormal Psychology Textbook with an Increased Multicultural Emphasis*

School of Business Administration

Dr. Doug Lyon, Professor of Management

- *Leadership Scholarship as Related to Teaching Leadership*

Dr. Stephanie Owings, Professor of Economics

- *Provision of a Non-excludable Good: A Case Study of Via Ferratas*