

2023 - 2024

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Center for Academic Innovation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 MISSION, VISION, & GOALS
- 3 DEAN'S WELCOME
- 5 SESSION REVIEW
- 6 SESSION ATTENDENCE & FEEDBACK
- 7 BY THE NUMBERS
- 8 HIGHLIGHTS
- 10 EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORY
- 11 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- 12 CAI STAFF

CAI MISSION, VISION & WHAT WE DO

Mission: The center mission is to offer professional development, provide instructional support, and facilitate innovation and collaboration that promotes learning and academic excellence.

Vision: The center vision is to further institutional excellence by serving as an effective catalyst for collaboration, effectiveness, and transformation in teaching and learning success through the dynamic and centralized support of high-quality instruction and delivery.

What We Do:

- 1. Promote the sharing of best practices that further learning and student success.
- 2. Promote and support the adoption of effective, evidence-based, high-impact teaching practices.
- 3. Cultivate a culture of belonging, lifelong learning, and continuous improvement.
- 4. Encourage collaboration and innovation across the college to advance educational excellence.
- 5. Offer expertise, services, and resources in learning sciences, educational technology, and course modalities that inform instruction and course delivery.

Guiding Principles:

Collaboration Growth Respect
Learning Excellence Trust

DEAN'S WELCOME

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

Greetings and welcome to the fifth annual report of OTC's Center for Academic Innovation (CAI) and the final Dean's Welcome. This report not only summarizes our work over the past year but also highlights some of CAI's achievements.

Over the past five years, we faced unprecedented challenges, adopted new technologies, and created resources only previously imagined. We did this together, alongside you, with a passion for teaching, learning, and collaboration.

2019-2020: FOUNDATIONAL GROWTH AND RESPONSIVE INNOVATION

CAI launched in August 2019 as OTC's center for excellence in teaching and learning. We focused on the continued growth of instructional development, including instructional support and design, and created new opportunities in faculty development as part of an overall educational development strategy.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly changed our classrooms and CAI was there to help faculty "pivot" to virtual instruction. Having many courses already offered online helped OTC continue instruction. However, our innovative and committed faculty, especially those with hands-on learning components working tirelessly day and night, saw our students through to course completion. It was truly amazing to see everyone come together to support our students and each other. OTC does care, and the spring 2020 semester underscored our resilience, dedication, and the "students first" spirit of OTC.

2020-2021: RESILIENCE AMIDST ADVERSITY

During CAI's second year, we continued to grapple with the impacts of the pandemic. We soon learned that not only were courses disrupted, but the pandemic was also having long-term effects on the well-being of our students. Self-care for students became a primary topic of interest. Burrell Behavioral Health and Flower Darby, author of "Small Teaching Online" delivered sessions. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) allowed faculty compensation for successful completion of the virtual training course, "Preparing to Pivot," which assisted faculty transitioning courses from seated to virtual classrooms. The creation of the Instructional Media Studio (IMS) also assisted faculty enhancing their courses through personalized instructional video content.

2021-2022: EXPANDING OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

In year three, CAI continued to leverage HEERF funds to offer two more faculty training courses: "Delivering Flexible Courses" and "Care-Full Teaching." A group of general education faculty (now Arts, Sciences, and Business) embarked on Z-course development to leverage Open Education Resources (OER) to help keep student costs down. CAI:TALK (Teaching And Learning Knowledgebase), a 24/7 virtual faculty resource repository, was debuted to further support faculty with everything from Canvas how-to's to evidence-based teaching practices.

We also learned that faculty and staff were in desperate need of self-care. CAI focused on adjunct outreach and made over 450 calls to adjuncts in our inaugural adjunct calling campaign. We wanted to check in with our adjuncts and see how they were doing, if they had any needs, and to let them know we were here to

In May, CAI celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with over 400 student submitted "thank you" notes for faculty. We then shared this outpouring of gratitude with faculty to help acknowledge their impact on students' lives.

2022-2023: EMBRACING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

In November 2022 of CAI's fourth year, generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) was released to the public in the form of ChatGPT. It soon became apparent that this technology would have a lasting impact on society, education, and the world. CAI staff developed and began offering GenAI professional development sessions to faculty and were approached by external organizations for multiple speaking engagements. We also created a self-paced, virtual artificial intelligence course open to all OTC employees.

CAI also expanded the "Faculty Spotlight" to include an "Instructional Spotlight." This allowed us to showcase the investment and efforts that department chairs, program directors, and their faculty put into program development and redesign to ensure optimal student learning experiences. In collaboration with Student Success, CAI developed Canvas navigator courses for every college navigator. These courses serve as hubs for navigators and students to share program information and address frequently asked questions. In the spring, CAI offered the "Teaching Students How to Learn" book club that supported faculty and staff as they fostered student success and readiness.

2023-2024: PIONEERING CHANGE

Fall 2023 saw the college transition from Zoom to Microsoft Teams for virtual classroom delivery. Information Technology (IT) and CAI collaborated to train and support users proactively and throughout the transition. The college established the OTC Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee, and CAI expanded GenAI professional development sessions to all employees.

The use of AI was not the only thing impacting faculty this year. Several instructors faced new and surmounting classroom challenges. There are no simple fixes for what is occurring in many college classrooms today, and it may be symptomatic of major shifts ahead for higher education. College discussions around these concerns are ongoing.

IN CLOSING

These five years have been filled with change, growth, and adaptation. Together we have learned how to "SLIM," "pivot," "LVL," "flex," and "LOL." OTC has welcomed amazing new faculty and bid farewell to some of our most distinguished and adored veteran faculty. I want to personally thank each faculty and staff member who donated their time to present a CAI session or lead a book club. We couldn't do this without you! Our CAI-Advisory Committee (CAI-AC) members, Provost McGrady, and OTC administrators have also provided tremendous support.

I am most honored to have served with a talented group of professionals in CAI. I am proud of my team and each of you for taking CAI from a strategic plan action item in 2018 to a center promoting faculty teaching and student learning. As I transition to my new role as Executive Director of the Professional Development Institute (PDI), it demonstrates OTC's commitment to providing professional development for all employees.

OTC faculty will continue to be supported, whether through CAI or PDI. Philip Arnold, Director of Instructional Support, has assumed leadership of CAI, and I am confident he and the CAI team will continue to provide exceptional instructional support and development. To learn more about CAI's services, visit them on the Springfield campus in IC 104 or email online@otc.edu

For events, programming, and professional learning opportunities for all employees, please contact Erin Dooley or I at the PDI via email at pd@otc.edu

It has been an honor serving as your Dean of Online and Faculty Development. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the future!

DR. JULIE COLTHARP

Outgoing Dean of Online & Faculty Development Inaugural Executive Director, Professional Development Institute

2023 - 2024 SESSION REVIEW

June

• Microsoft Teams for Teaching (2 sessions)

July

- Microsoft Teams for Teaching (2 sessions)
- Teams Virtual Classroom Sandbox (2 sessions)

August

- Microsoft Teams for Teaching
- Teams Virtual Classroom Sandbox
- Adjunct Educator Conference
 - Microsoft Teams for Teaching
 - New Adjunct Session
 - Introduction to Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education (2 sessions)
 - Syllabus Prep (2 sessions)
 - Better Ideas, Better Ideals (2 sessions)
 - Microsoft Teams Open Lab with IT (2 sessions)
- Faculty Development Days
 - Microsoft Teams for Teaching (2 sessions)
 - Better Ideas, Better Ideals
 - Microsoft Teams Open Lab with IT
 - Academic Support Table Topics
 - Introduction to Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education
- Microsoft Teams for Teaching (3 sessions Lebanon, Waynesville, and Republic)

September

- Faculty Unplug & Network
- Microsoft Teams for Teaching (2 sessions)
- Artificial Intelligence Demonstration (2 sessions)
- Getting Started with Kahoot (2 sessions)
- Microsoft OneDrive for Faculty

October

- Faculty Unplug & Network
- Microsoft Teams for Teaching (2 sessions)
- Artificial Intelligence Demonstration (2 sessions)
- Getting Started with Kahoot (2 sessions)
- Microsoft OneDrive for Faculty

November

- · Microsoft Teams for Teaching
- Faculty Unplug & Network
- Artificial Intelligence and Curriculum

January

- Saturday of Support
- Academic Support Virtual Open House
- Faculty Development Days
 - Artificial Intelligence Demonstration
 - Getting Started with Prompt Engineering
- Building a Connected Classroom Climate

February

- Canvas New Quizzes (2 sessions)
- Building a Connected Classroom Climate (2 sessions)
- The Body Keeps the Score Book Study
- Artificial Intelligence Demonstration
- Getting Started with Artificial Intelligence
- Getting Started with Microsoft Copilot
- Getting Started with Prompt Engineering (2 sessions)

March

- Artificial Intelligence Demonstration
- Getting Started with Microsoft Copilot
- Canvas New Quizzes (2 sessions)
- Getting Started with Prompt Engineering
- Getting Started with ChatGPT

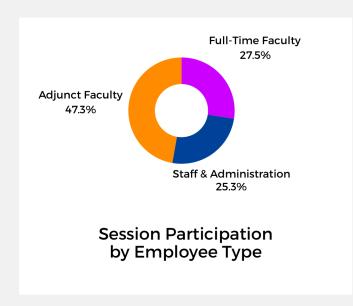
April

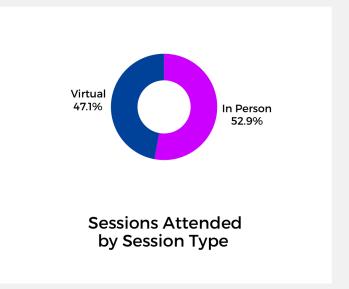
- Artificial Intelligence Demonstration
- Getting Started with Images in Generative Artificial Intelligence
- Getting Started with Prompt Engineering
- Canvas New Quizzes (2 sessions)
- Artificial Intelligence and Curriculum
- Artificial Intelligence Open Workshop

CAI also assisted with the promotion or coordination of several department-specific events, professional development watch parties, training opportunities, and instructor-led meetings.

- Disability Support Services Canvas Training
- NISOD Webinar Watch Parties
- Teachers Talking Teaching
- Artificial Intelligence Training for Student Affairs
- Faculty Connection Meetings
- PersonBrain™ Model Overview Training

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION ATTENDENCE





WHAT FACULTY SAY ABOUT CAI SESSIONS & SERVICES

"Very impressed with the CAI office. Anytime I have needed assistance, I have received it very quickly and the issue was fully resolved. As an adjunct, I feel the most supported (and valued) at OTC because of the staff at the CAI office and how responsive they are."

"I recognize and appreciate the enhanced support that CAI has been providing these past few years. Your vision seems to be spot on with what faculty needs."

"They are lifesaving. We could not do what we do without them."

"The support I have received has made me a better instructor and given me new tools to help students better engage and learn."



My association with CAI has been exceptional. Any contact has been addressed quickly with outstanding results. The professional development activities have been first class. I would have the highest recommendation for CAI to anyone who asked about my experiences.

INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 - 2024BY THE NUMBERS

159 Courses28 Programs

CAI PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT BY DIVISION

54% Technical Education

10% Arts, Sciences, & Business

36% Health Sciences

CANVAS SUPPORT STATION

225 Publisher Support Requests Resolved

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

- 109 sessions offered
- 84 internally developed sessions
- 839 attendees

7,940

STUDENTS IMPACTED

by faculty participation in development sessions

NEW ADJUNCT OUTREACH

Proactive outreach to **58** adjunct instructors new to OTC

MEDIA



10

NEWSLETTERS PUBLISHED



8

SPOTLIGHT & RESOURCE VIDEOS RELEASED

2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITMENTS: OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE. INNOVATION

With rapid advancements in generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), CAI has taken proactive measures to engage the entire college community in discussions about GenAl's educational and workforce applications. We developed a GenAl webpage and released the "Teaching with Al" Canvas course, allowing both faculty and staff to explore GenAI foundations, its impact on learning, and educational trends. The course provides hands-on experience with GenAI tools and strategies that foster critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration with students.

Additionally, CAI developed and offered various GenAI training sessions on topics such as navigating GenAI, effective prompt engineering, and image creation. CAI also conducted sessions for faculty to share how GenAI impacts their teaching and curriculum and provided customized sessions for both the Staff Association and Student Affairs. Sessions have also been offered for all OTC employees and local regional organizations.

CAI staff also provided leadership in OTC's Artificial Intelligence Advisory Group. This group has surveyed students, faculty, and staff about their GenAl use, concerns, and perceived benefits. They also provide recommendations to OTC leadership regarding GenAl in policies, opportunities, programming, and next steps.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIORS

STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITMENTS: STUDENT SUPPORTS, ACCESSIBILITY, INNOVATION

With increased concern around classroom behaviors, CAI organized several sessions to provide faculty with effective classroom management strategies. Expanding on the spring 2023 Disruptive Students in the Classroom and Civility in the Classroom sessions, the Better Ideas, Better Ideals sessions explored legal and socio-cultural foundations for creating an educational space where students and instructors are valued and engaged.

Faculty took the initiative to develop and lead the Building a Connected Classroom Climate sessions, which emphasized the importance of a supportive classroom atmosphere. These sessions provided strategies to help both students and faculty transition from an emotional state to an executive learning state where mistakes and conflict can be seen as an opportunity for personal and academic growth.

In partnership with Student Affairs, Missouri State University's Center for Conflict Resolution presented a Conflict Styles session. This session introduced participants to different conflict styles and provided skills for managing conflicts constructively.

CAI also facilitated two book study groups on The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma. This book study culminated with a PersonBrain™ Model Overview training offered by Burrell Behavioral Health. Both the book study and training provided foundational knowledge on how trauma impacts the brain and strategies for responsive intervention with students.

2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

FACULTY COMMUNITY & SHARING

STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITMENTS: INNOVATION, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Faculty prefer to learn from one another, which is why CAI is dedicated to knowledge sharing among instructors. This year, we have expanded the ways instructors can connect and share, as well as how we promote these opportunities.

Teacher Talk is a Microsoft Teams channel and community of practice for instructors committed to enhancing teaching and learning through the exchange of ideas. Faculty can join the team to ask questions, share resources, and engage in respective, collaborative discussions. CAI promotes engagement on the channel by prompting discussions and creating opportunities for faculty to connect over shared interests.

Faculty Spotlights are videos featured in the CAI newsletter and website that highlight effective teaching practices. By soliciting faculty nominations, CAI showcases successful methods already used OTC, inspiring faculty to learn from their peers.

Instructional Spotlights are videos featured in the CAI newsletter and website that showcase departments and programs that have participated in program development through CAI. These stories share the development and redesign process, their experiences working with CAI, and the end results that improve learning outcomes.

For Faculty By Faculty allows instructors to share articles, podcasts, books, and other resources that inspire their teaching. These submissions help CAI develop a shared teaching and learning bibliography, which informs our newsletters, programming, and events.

Additionally, CAI has facilitated opportunities for departments, programs, and faculty to engage in meaningful conversations. This includes scheduling time and space for faculty to gather, discuss specific topics, build community, and create collaborations.

FACULTY SURVEY

STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITMENTS: INNOVATION, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

With the guidance of the Center for Academic Innovation Advisory Committee (CAI-AC), CAI surveyed faculty at the beginning of the spring 2024 semester. The survey addressed the CAI services faculty have utilized and are most interested in, whether these services met their needs, and if they feel supported by CAI. Key themes from the survey indicate:

Faculty are eager to deepen their understanding and utilization of Canvas features to create more interactive and manageable courses. They are also interested in exploring and integrating GenAl and other cutting-edge technologies to enhance their teaching practices. However, there is a growing concern among some faculty about maintaining academic integrity in the face of advancing GenAl capabilities.

In their quest to keep students interested, faculty are seeking innovative methods to engage learners in online, hybrid, and live online environments. They value opportunities for professional growth, particularly in refining pedagogical strategies, mastering technology use, and improving course design.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORY

The role CAI plays for instructors is absolutely critical!



Heather Eberlin
Instructor
Agriculture

"After dedicating twelve years to teaching secondary agriculture, I made the transition to postsecondary education. To my immense relief, the Center of Academic Innovation provided unwavering support. Over my five years at OTC, CAI has been instrumental in helping me create courses from scratch, revitalizing outdated curriculum, and weaving in my vision for the future. The role CAI plays for instructors is absolutely critical!"



- Program Development
- Course & Content Design
- Course Objective Mapping
- · Authentic Assessment & Activity Design
- Data-Informed Course Iteration
- Open Educational Resource Implementation
- Universal Design for Learning



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CENTER FOR ACADEMIC INNOVATION **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Center for Academic Innovation - Advisory Committee (CAI-AC) brings dedicated faculty voices to CAI event planning, development offerings, and other programming and services. We appreciate the time and support these individuals provide in ensuring we serve our faculty well!



David Fotopulos Instructor Communication



Joshua Freeman **Program Director** Paramedicine



Lisa Gardner Department Chair Hospitality & **Culinary Arts**



Jackson Lewis-Hite Instructor Computer Information Sciences



Ross Lowrance Instructor Computer Information Sciences



Dr. Morgan Presley Instructor **Biological Clinical** Sciences



Jean Ann Rushing Instructor **Practical Nursing**



Sandra Sanford Instructor Occupational Therapy Assistant



Amy Shelley Department Chair Behavioral Sciences



Barrie Talbott Instructor English



Randy Villines Program Director Fire Science Technology

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC INNOVATION STAFF



Dr. Julie Coltharp Dean of Online & Faculty Development



Erin Dooley Educational Development Coordinator



Philip Arnold Director of Instructional Support



Jacque Harris Instructional Designer



Amy Schneider Instructional Designer



Jennifer Marshall-Hoggatt Instructional Support Specialist



Jennifer Whalen Instructional **Development Specialist**



Sebastian Sabev Instructional Support



Steve Snelson Instructional Support

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