

2020-2021

YEAR AT A GLANCE



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Teaching and
Learning Center

2020-2021

YEAR AT A GLANCE

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) launched its first programs in September 2019 to provide professional development opportunities for instructors interested in improving student learning and retention through evidence-based pedagogies. After an emergency move to remote teaching in March 2020, the TLC quickly became a haven for faculty seeking guidance, resources, and innovative ways to deliver engaging learning experiences while teaching remotely. In the 2020-21 academic year, the TLC continued this important work by providing support, resources and professional development opportunities to Drexel instructors. These included a focus on developing more agile courses, flexible learning environments, and engaged pedagogies amidst an often unpredictable global pandemic and increasing calls to action to address racial injustice within the United States.

The TLC supports the core mission of the university *to prepare graduates of diverse backgrounds to become purpose-driven professionals and agents for positive change*. The critical ways in which it does so became even clearer during the 2020-21 academic year where instructors worked harder than ever to engage students in new learning environments. This report highlights a few of the special projects, initiatives, and collaborations accomplished in the 2020-21 academic year and how these projects align with both Drexel University's and TLC's strategic plans. It also provides a snapshot of the Drexel community's engagement with our activities and programs and the considerable impact the TLC has made within Drexel University during this time.



2020-2021

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Drexel Institute for Inclusive and Equitable Teaching

The Drexel Institute for Inclusive and Equitable Teaching is a highly interactive, cohort-based program that supports faculty with implementing inclusive and equitable teaching practices within one or more courses. Through readings, discussions, online activities and interactive workshops, participants learn strategies for building an inclusive syllabus, teaching transparently, creating inclusive, equitable activities and assessments, and developing skills to embrace and discuss difference in the classroom. The Teaching and Learning Center in collaboration with the Office of Equality and Diversity ran cohorts in the Spring and Summer of 2021 resulting in 34 faculty receiving a certificate of completion.

Thank a Teacher Program

The Thank a Teacher program launched in January 2021 to create an opportunity for Drexel's students to publicly say "thank you" to teachers who have made a *Drexel Difference* in their education. The TLC shares these "thank you's" with the instructor, the instructor's department head and dean, and the Provost. Between January and July 2021 we received over 145 submissions from students and alumni.

TLC'S MISSION IS TO INSPIRE AND PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING THROUGHOUT DREXEL UNIVERSITY'S DIVERSE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

Teaching Tips from the TLC

Early in the 2020-21 academic year, the Teaching and Learning Center launched a blog for the Drexel University instructors called *Teaching Tips from the TLC*. Regular posts include brief, practical, research-based strategies for improving students' learning, as well as tips for managing workload and stress. In this past year, the TLC created 25 posts which have now been accessed over 10,000 times by members of the Drexel University community.

Drexel Teaching Academy

Drexel Teaching Academy is the TLC's signature program which aims to develop teaching leaders and ambassadors within in every school, college, and department at the University. This 10-week intensive course develops and energizes leaders in teaching and provides them with the tools to act as champions for innovative and evidence-based pedagogies. In the spring of 2021, the TLC ran the second annual Drexel Teaching Academy graduating 20 faculty and administrators. In the 2020-21 academic year, Drexel Teaching Academy alumni from the 2020 cohort also served the TLC in a number of ways including facilitating workshops, developing teaching resources, and providing mentorship to their colleagues.

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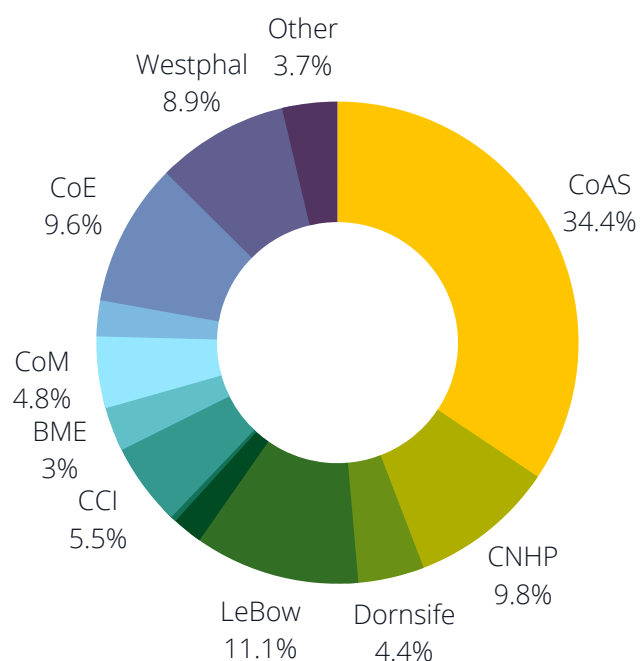
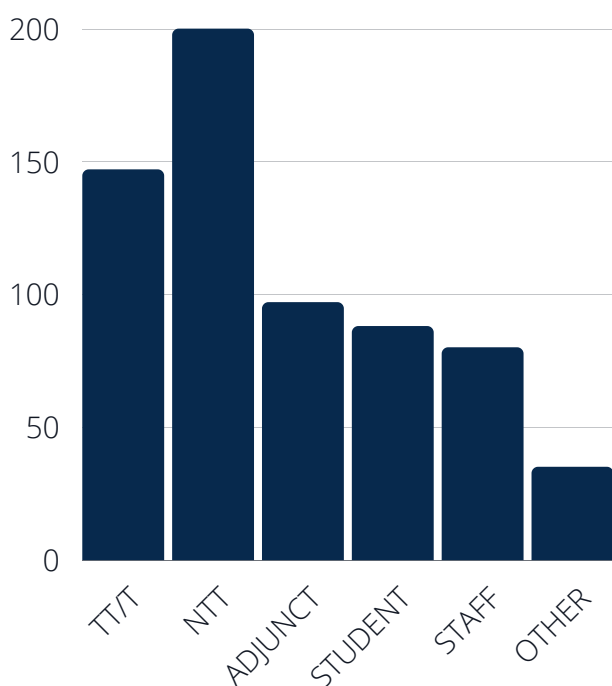
PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT



648 UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS
 15% increase since 2019-20

1877 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
 44% increase since 2019-20

AFFILIATIONS AND ROLES



2020-2021 FACULTY EXPERIENCES

💡 I'd happily participate in more TLC workshops. The facilitator knew her subject matter, shows compassion and fairness when/if there's a difference of opinion, and she organized the material and activities in easy-to-navigate ways for maximum participation.

💡 I thought this was an excellent experience, and to be honest I was dreading it. Not because of the presenter, but because I tend to think most of these initiatives are just lip service. The 90 minutes went by really fast, and I thought the organization of the material and facilitation of the workshop was exemplary.

💡 This workshop was really well done. I came away with different ideas that opened my mind to what might be possible in my teaching. The facilitators led with compassion and empathy, and I feel empowered to help contribute to positive change at our university.



90%

**OF PARTICIPANTS
AGREE THAT THEIR
EXPERIENCES IN
OUR WORKSHOPS
WILL IMPROVE
THEIR TEACHING.**

85%

**OF PARTICIPANTS
AGREE THAT THEIR
EXPERIENCES IN
OUR WORKSHOPS
WILL IMPROVE
STUDENTS' LEARNING.**



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