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Subject: UE Fall 2017 Newsletter

Letter from Jeff Franklin

Welcome to this new academic year and to the twelfth edition of the UE Newsletter, our second one in 2017. We only send you this newsletter 3-4 times per year when there are timely reasons to intrude upon your time. This newsletter is a voice for the quality of the undergraduate educational experience as a whole; it speaks for every undergrad student and to every faculty who teaches them.

We are dedicated to maximizing two variables simultaneously: student learning and student success, academic rigor and instructional quality plus degree progress and completion. We know from national research that it is possible to do both of these at the same time, indeed that doing so is the necessary way forward.
UE oversees a range of programs that educate students across schools/colleges and help educate the whole student, including: the CU Denver Core curriculum, the First-Year Experiences program, the Experiential Learning Center, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) and annual Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS), as well as initiatives such as High-Impact Practices.

UE also puts on the **UE Symposium** each October, an annual forum for the entire campus to come together around improving student learning and success. This year the symposium will be held on October 20th—please mark your calendar. Why should you attend?—Here are a couple of reasons:

- The focus will be on student success, what each one of us can do in our classrooms and in our offices to help more of our students complete their degrees. Right now, less than 50% of our students do so in six years, and underrepresented minorities are overrepresented among those who do not. We can do better by our students and for our society. That’s why “elevate student success” is the first of Chancellor Horrell’s **CU Denver Priorities**.
- This academic year, 40 or more of our faculty and staff are working in committees as part of our **Student Success Partnership** with the Education Advisory Board (EAB) to improve student success. There is a whole lot of reform going on, and the symposium is one opportunity to find out about it and to join our campus culture of elevating student success while maintaining academic quality.
- The keynote speaker will be **Dr. Ed Venit**, Senior Director of EAB and a nationally recognized expert on university reform to improve student success. There are data-driving national best-practices that produce results, and EAB is helping CU Denver learn from them.
- The symposium is a rare opportunity to partner with colleagues you may not know from across schools/colleges and dozens of student-serving offices to make good things happen for our students, for you, and for CU Denver.
- The symposium is not just talk; it contributes to making real things happen. If you take a look at the **summary recommendations** that came out of last year’s symposium, you may observe that nearly all of them are currently being implemented.

Please join the conversation that is in part determining the future of our students and our university. Click [here to register](#) for our 13th annual UE Symposium on October 20th.

UE wishes you and your students an enriching and fun learning experience in fall 2017.

Be well,
Jeff Franklin

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**First Year Experiences Program**

Greetings from First-Year Experiences!

FYE, which coordinates First-Year Seminar (FYS) courses, College Success (UNIV) courses, and Learning Communities (LC), is working to grow academic opportunities available to first-year students. Why? Because national experience shows that they improve student sense of belonging, academic performance, and persistence toward completion.

This fall, FYE has seen an increase in student enrollment, up 100 students from last fall. Our offerings for first-year students increased with the addition of four new LCs, five new FYSs, and eight additional UNIV 1110 courses.
FYE continues to explore opportunities to engage first-year students in FYE courses, including College Success courses specific to students’ majors, as well as sections for specific populations such as First Generation students and transfer students.

The academic year got off to a fun start with New Student Convocation, Move-in Day, and of course the eclipse! In partnership with Club Sports, the Peer Advocate Leader Program, and the Academic Success and Advising Center, FYE co-sponsored the First-Year BBQ during welcome week. 500 students, faculty, and staff converged on the Club Sports Field for this annual event.

In spring 2018, a new College Success course will roll out for first-year students: UNIV 1112 – Major and Career Exploration. UNIV 1112 will be open to new first-year students and new transfer students with less than 30 credit hours. Students who have yet to declare their major have the opportunity to enroll in this course, which will focus on the major and career exploration process. Students will examine career theory as well as connect to campus resources that support major selection and career preparation. FYE is looking forward to a semester full of first-year student and faculty engagement through academic and social opportunities!

Christy Heaton

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**Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA)**

**Fall 2017 UROP Mini-Grants for Undergraduate Students**

Following a successful pilot in fall 2016, there will be a second round of Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Mini-Grants this fall. UROP is a competitive program designed to financially support original undergraduate research, most broadly understood as including all creative and other scholarly activities. UROP provides an opportunity to extend learning outside the traditional classroom, lab, or studio. Any degree-seeking undergrad at CU Denver who has completed 15 credit hours here with a cumulative CU GPA ≥ 2.5 may apply.
We expect to award approximately 20 Mini-Grants of $500 each. Funding may be applied to stipends, dissemination costs, and material costs. All UROP awardees are required to present at RaCAS (see above) and complete a brief final report. Mini-Grant application form and sample applications can be found on the UROP website. The submission deadline is Friday, September 22, 2017. If you’ve never mentored a student in a UROP grant, a Mini-Grant is a great place to start. The program would be pleased to see more applications in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, Architecture, and Public Affairs.

RaCAS 2018 — Save the Date
The CU Denver Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS) has been scheduled for Friday, 27 April 2018 — save the date! RaCAS is designed to showcase the independent research, creative, and other scholarly activities conducted by undergrad and graduate students at CU Denver and CU AMC. If students conduct substantive original work as part of your class, please encourage them to present at RaCAS. A variety of formats will be accepted, including posters, exhibits, streaming media, oral presentations, performances, and panel discussions. We also will solicit proposals from students for mini-symposia focused on multi-disciplinary topics of broad interest. Please visit www.ucdenver.edu/ResearchDay or contact Leo.Bruederle@ucdenver.edu with questions.

UE Seeks Next URCA Director
UE invites applications for the position of Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (DURCA), to begin Spring 2018. The DURCA will provide leadership to advance the goal of providing undergraduate students with a wide range of opportunities in research, creative, and other scholarly activities. The DURCA will oversee centralized programs such as UROP and RaCAS (see above), promote collaboration with faculty and administrators in all schools/colleges to foster URCA, promote initiatives to expand student participation in URCA, and seek funding for new URCA initiatives.

The successful candidate will have a passion for URCA and a record of successful mentoring of students in research or creative projects. Applicants should be instructors or tenure track/tenured professors who have administrative and organizational skills, leadership experience, demonstrated ability working collaboratively, and strong communication and presentation skills.

The DURCA will report to the AVC for Undergraduate Experiences and collaborate with staff in the Experiential Learning Center (ELC, see below) to support the undergraduate research enterprise at CU Denver and CU AMC. The position requires approximately 20% of the DURCA’s salaried time, which is compensated by course release(s), professional-development funds, or summer salary. Interested? Please contact Leo Bruederle or Jeff Franklin for more information.

Experiential Learning Center (ELC)
What Can the ELC Do for You and Your Students?
The ELC provides centralized administration of CU Denver’s internship programs. We partner with faculty across campus and with a huge list of diverse employers in the community to engage hundreds of students every semester in internships. In the 2015-2016 academic year, the ELC coordinated ~689 internships, 75% of which were credit bearing, 25% not-for-credit experiences, and with an average pay rate of $15.21.

The ELC also helps coordinate undergraduate research and creative activities (URCA) and the annual Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS), in partnership with UE and the director of URCA.
We also partner with the CU Denver Career Center. We are sharing a new database, Handshake, that houses internships, jobs, events, workshops, and, soon, undergraduate research opportunities. Handshake offers students a more user-friendly search experience, including a mobile app, and connects them to our offices with online appointment and workshop scheduling.

The ELC team is committed to working closely with students, faculty, employers, and community partners to provide quality experiential learning that enriches students' lives. We meet with students, faculty, and employers year-round. If you might be interested in learning about internships and the integration of them into courses, please get in touch with us. Lesley Bishop, our assistant director, or I would be glad to come to your office, or make an appointment or drop into our offices in the Tivoli anytime. Please visit our website for our contact info.

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**High-Impact Practices Update**

The HIP Steering Committee—Brenda Allen, Rich Allen, Jeff Franklin, Megan Frewaldt, Laura Goodwin, Kelly Hupfeld, Marjorie Levine-Clark, Tony Smith, Donna Sobel, Kenny Wolf, and Margaret Wood—continues its work to increase the availability of and participation in these engaged teaching-and-learning experiences across our campus. HIPs serve both student learning and student success.

As a result of the first phase of HIP work, the provost-funded HIP Grants Project of 2016, eight profession learning communities redesigned about 20 courses and 6 degree programs to be more HIP-intensive, impacting the learning of 100s of students not only this year but in years to come. Please see the [HIP-grant final report](#), which was published in *CU Denver Today*.

For our second phase of HIP development, the steering committee wrote a proposal, which gratefully was funded by Provost Nairn, to support three HIP Faculty Fellows in the Center for Faculty Development (CFD) in 2017-2018. These faculty and the HIPs they championed were selected through a competitive proposal process (along with three other faculty in non-HIP faculty-fellow positions):

1. Lindsey Hamilton, Assistant Research Professor, Psychology—Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, in fall 2017
2. Candan Duran-Aydintug, Associate Professor, Sociology—Diversity and Global Learning, in spring 2018
3. Stacy Bosick, Associate Professor, Sociology—Community Engaged Learning (including service learning), in spring 2018

The HIP Steering Committee and Provost Nairn encourage all campus faculty to consider participating in one of these HIP-focused Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs). Registration is open at this [CFD website](#).

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**Quick Committee Updates**
Core Curriculum Oversight Committee

This semester, the CCOC continues its regular review of proposals for new CU Denver Core courses, as well as revisions to Core courses and student exception petitions. The committee is involved also in regular periodic review of existing Core-course syllabi—quality oversight—this semester in the Cultural Diversity Core Area. Learn more about the CU Denver Core, "Explaining the CU Denver Core to the Regents," the CCOC policies, or how to submit a Core-course proposal.

HIP Steering Committee

The HIP Steering Committee, a collaboration with the Center for Faculty Development (CFD), continues to meet monthly and to work on propagating HIPs and engaged teaching-and-learning experiences in all of our degree programs and for all interested students. The committee prepared and received funding for a proposal to the provost for HIP Faculty Fellows in the CFD, starting this fall. See the HIPs website to access the HIPs Best-Practices Guidelines, which are useful to any faculty person thinking about integrating a HIP into a course or program.

Undergraduate Council

The UGC, an all-colleges faculty-governance body, supports all academic aspects of the undergrad experience and reviews proposed new curricula with cross-college content. See our bylaws for more information about this group.

Undergraduate Working Group

This cross-campus forum develops solutions to undergraduate-education-related issues and impasses through consultation and consensus. All student-facing offices are invited to nominate agenda items for the monthly meetings. If policy changes are recommended, the UWG seeks review and approval through the Associate Deans & Academic Support Group and, ultimately, the provost. The UWG meetings are open to all.