Dr. Jeff Franklin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Experiences

Letter from Jeff Franklin

Dear colleagues,

I hope your semester is off to a good start. UE works in partnership with you, the faculty and staff of CU Denver. We partner all across campus to develop and offer educational programs that support academic quality, student learning, and student success. Programs such as the CU Denver general-education program, the First-Year Experiences (FYE) program, undergraduate research and creative activities programming (EURECA, UROP, RaCAS—see below), and community-based learning via internships. Each one of these, as well as related initiatives (HIPs, Guided Pathways, Math Pathways, etc.), involve collaboration with faculty from across all schools/colleges, as well as staff from Admissions and advising to the Registrar's Office and Student Life.
So, thank you to you, our many partners. I’ll admit that we in UE view all faculty and staff as our partners in one CU Denver community working together for the benefit of our students, the university, quality learning, and a more just and equitable society.

One way that we help build the CU Denver community is through the annual UE Symposium each October. This year is the 14th annual. The theme is “Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century.” This is the most faculty-centered symposium we’ve had, and we’ll be entreating all faculty to participate in this vital conversation, but, as always, we welcome staff too, all of whom serve the overall educational experience.

This year, the keynote speaker will be Dr. Drew Koch, President of the John Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, a nationally respected university-based organization that researches student transition, learning, and completion. He will set the stage by speaking about who our students are today, how they have changed, and how to effectively and equitably meet them where they are.

But the real work of the day is in the morning and afternoon breakout sessions (with good food at breakfast and lunch), in which you, the attendees, learn from national best practices and from each other, learning we then will disseminate. Topics being considered for breakouts include teaching metacognition and growth mindset, inclusive pedagogy, community-based learning, and peer-based learning.

And, importantly, if you compare the attendee summary recommendations from previous symposia to subsequent actions supported by upper administration, you see that your work at the UE Symposium makes real change happen. This is a day worth taking part in.

So, please, register today at this link and mark your calendar. We need your expertise/experience and your partnership in our shared community of teaching and learning.

Have a great fall 2018 semester,

Jeff Franklin

First Year Experiences Program (FYE)
Greetings from First-Year Experiences!

FYE, which coordinates First-Year Seminar (FYS) courses, College Success (UNIV) courses, and Learning Communities (LCs), is continuing to grow academic opportunities available to first-year students and to partner with our colleagues in Student Affairs to increase social integration outside of the classroom. Why? Because national experience shows that they improve student sense of belonging, academic performance, and persistence toward completion.

I invite you to consider the following highlights of our programming and how we might partner with your program and how you might participate in helping all new students transition and thrive at CU Denver. I invite you to get involved with FYE!
Wow, what a summer! FYE had the opportunity to connect with over 1,600 new first-year and transfer students at New Student Orientation sessions. With an ever-growing presence (thanks to our Admissions and Orientation partners) at events like Preview Days, Admitted Student Days, and Orientations, we have seen a huge increase in FYE engagement, the biggest ever. Our FYE classes have enrolled over 300 more students than in fall 2017, with total enrollment over 900 students, including six new FYS courses, six new UNIV 1110 courses, three new LCs, and a new Transfer Student Seminar.

In addition, our Summer Bridge College Success course doubled, thanks to our colleagues in Pre-Collegiate, and FYE had the opportunity to partner with Denver Schools for Science and Technology to pilot a Summer Preview program for incoming DSST students, a program we hope to grow next year.

Growing FYE opportunities means greater collaboration with academic departments to bring a diverse array of course offerings to our new students. Our seminars (First-Year and Transfer) include courses from all of the CU Denver core knowledge areas. Our LCs are developed from partnerships with the School of Education as well as multiple departments across campus: Math, English, Mechanical Engineering, Political Science, Chemistry, Biology, and Criminal Justice.

Lastly, we are excited to continue our collaborations with the Peer Advocate Leader program. PALs make up half of our mentorship model in our FYE program and work hard to assist new students in connecting to CU Denver. For more information about CU Denver’s PAL program, click here.

FYE is dedicated to increasing year-round efforts to keep first-year, as well as transfer, students engaged at CU Denver.

Stay tuned for some new and exciting collaborations this fall and spring!

Christy Heaton, PhD
Director, First-Year Experiences
Mini-UROP Grants for Undergraduate Students
UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program) is a competitive grant program designed to financially support original undergraduate research, 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.

This fall, $500 mini-grants are available for student stipends, supplies, or travel to academic/professional conferences. Please encourage your students to apply by visiting the UROP webpage (www.ucdenver.edu/UROP). The application is online and is less than one page. Mini-grant applications are due by September 21, 2018.

Research Seminar Series
Introducing the EURēCA! Research Seminar Series! This series is open to all CU Denver students and faculty on the first Wednesday of each month, from 12:30-1:30 pm in Tivoli 260 (Experiential Learning Center workshop space). Walk-ins are welcome, but students can register on Handshake for these events. Various campus experts will share valuable information on research opportunities on campus (September 5, 2018), tools and strategies for library research (October 3, 2018), how to communicate research broadly (November 7, 2018), opportunities for summer research programs (December 5, 2018), tips for writing UROPs (February 6, 2019), writing abstracts (March 6, 2019), and creating a research poster (April 3, 2019).

EURēCA! Fellows
We are proud to announce the first cohort of EURēCA Fellows. This award was highly competitive, and we granted 17 talented undergraduates a $3000 stipend to conduct faculty-mentored independent research, creative, or other scholarly activity. Our Fellows come from a variety of disciplines in the College of Arts and Media, College of Engineering and Applied Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the School of Public Affairs. All Fellows will be presenting their research at the 22nd annual Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS) on April 26, 2019.

Odalis Castro is being mentored by Dr. Clyde Wright, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Anschutz Medical Campus. She will use her fellowship to continue to investigate the pathogenesis of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia—a chronic lung disease affecting babies born at early gestation ages. Odalis focuses on sex differences of the signaling mechanisms that underlie this disease and hopes to continue her research after
Samantha Manion, mentored by Melissa Furness, Associate Professor of Art, will be creating a body of work entitled “Rituals,” which will consist of large format paintings that document the daily rituals of Hispanic women in a tribute to her culture. Samantha is will be graduating this spring with her BFA and intends to apply to MFA programs.

EURēCA! Work-Study Program

The EURēCA! Work-Study Program was piloted during Summer 2018 and continues in the Fall 2018. This program allowed faculty to hire a work-study-eligible student research assistant for up to 25 hours per week. A typical starting salary ranged from $10-14/hour, of which the employer pays 25 cents on the dollar and the federal government covers the rest. This program helps promote not only faculty research productivity but also boosts retention and graduation rates for student employees. We are pleased to announce this academic year that funds from the Office of the Provost are covering that 25 percent for approximately 25 CU Denver and AMC faculty and 32 work-study-eligible students.

Lindsey Hamilton, PhD
Director, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities

Experiential Learning Center (ELC)

Are you looking for ways to connect your students with Experiential Learning opportunities, such as internships or undergraduate research? The ELC staff can provide resources and connect students to options for networking, professional development, and much more. We continue to see increases in internship inquiries, position postings, and placements. Our ongoing collaboration with Dr. Lindsey Hamilton is opening more doors for EURēCA! Opportunities (see above), and our close partnership with the Career Center provides students with multiple points of entry to link experiential learning with career planning.

Please share with your students these events for their experiential and career needs:

- The Fall 2018 Internship and Job Fair: September 26th – 11am – 3pm; Tivoli Turnhalle
- Engineering Internship and Job Fair: November 6th – 11am – 3pm; Tivoli Turnhalle
- EURēCA! Seminar Series: 1st Wednesday of every month (see above).

We also are expanding our Quick Tips Hours for students. Students can now drop-in for 15-minute sessions for help with: resumes, cover letters, using/navigating the Handshake platform, and general internship guidance. Daily drop-in hours this semester are:

- Mondays: 10am – 2pm
- Tuesdays: 2pm – 4pm
- Wednesdays: 10am – 12pm
- Thursdays: 2pm – 4pm
- Fridays: 9am – 12pm
- Additional hours available through the Career Center.
The ELC has recently partnered with *Exploring: Discover Your Future*, a career-shadowing program sponsored through the Boy Scouts of America. Students (all gender identities) 20 years old and under are welcome to participate. This program allows students to experience a wide number of career options in a job-shadowing context. Students can inquire about potential company matches with an ELC advisor.

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 are glad to come to your office, or you can make an appointment or drop into our offices in the Tivoli anytime.

Please visit our website for more information/resources: [www.ucdenver.edu/elc](http://www.ucdenver.edu/elc).

Tony Smith, PhD
Director, Experiential Learning Center

---

**Quick Committee Updates**

---

**Core Curriculum Oversight Committee**

This semester, the CCOC continues 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 Composition and Mathematics Core Areas. Learn more about the [CU Denver Core](http://www.ucdenver.edu/core/index.html), "Explaining the CU Denver Core to the Regents," the [CCOC policies](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academicaffairs/dean/coc/index.html), or how to submit a [Core-course proposal](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academicaffairs/dean/coc/index.html).

---

**Guided Pathways Success Team**

This committee, which Jeff Franklin is co-chairing with Carrie John (Registrar) and Bruce Janson (CEAS), worked last year on creating clear and consistent degree maps for all majors on campus and creating a CU Denver website where students and faculty can access those. These will help students select a major and decide how their transfer credits will apply, and they also will serve as tools for faculty and advisors. This year, the committee continues by working on transfer degree maps, especially for students transferring from Colorado community colleges into CU Denver.

---

**Math Pathways Taskforce**

This committee, which Gary Olson (Director of General Education Mathematics) is co-chairing with Jeff Franklin, will be working throughout 2018-2019 to make improvements, such that: all majors specify a Math Pathway for its students that is applicable to their academic and future professional work, all students receive guidance for Math placement prior to registering for courses, and all students who need it receive supplemental instruction in the Math appropriate to their major. Contact Jeff Franklin if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns.

---

**Strengths Quest Advisory Board**

StrengthsQuest (SQ) is “a web-based assessment of normal personality from the perspective of Positive Psychology” (Gallup, 2018). All first-year students in UNIV–College Success courses take this assessment. The Career Center also incorporates SQ into their work with students. The SQ committee consists of faculty and staff who have participated in trainings and implemented SQ in their classrooms and out-of-class workshops. Last year, members of the SQ Advisory Board trained Campus Village Resident Assistants and led a half-day session on SQ at the annual CU Denver advisor retreat. If you have questions about SQ for your program, students, or classroom, please contact [christy.heaton@ucdenver.edu](mailto:christy.heaton@ucdenver.edu).

---

**HIPS Steering Committee**

The HiPs Steering Committee, a collaboration with...
The HIPs 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’s proposal for three HIP-focused Faculty Fellows in the CFD was funded by the provost last year, and the CFD is again offering these, and other, Communities of Practice, faculty learning communities that work together to enrich their teaching and student learning. 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.

URCA Taskforce

The URCA (Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities) Taskforce works to promote undergraduate research, creative, and scholarly activities both in and out of the classroom. The taskforce, which meets on the 1st Friday of each month, is looking to expand representation to every school and college on campus. We are especially interested in a representative from SEHD, Business, and Architecture. If you are interested in participating in the development and implementation of programs to increase the number of CU Denver undergraduates engaging in research, creative, and other scholarly activities, please contact lindsey.hamilton@ucdenver.edu.

Copyright © 2018 [Office of Undergraduate Experiences], All rights reserved.