Introduction

Happy New Year, LLU Faculty and Staff! We are thrilled to introduce the first issue of Academic News & Insights. This newsletter will be produced jointly out of the Office of the Provost, the Office of Educational Effectiveness, and the Division of Extended Education. Just as the name implies, we will offer important News, such as announcements, due dates, and inspiring insights, including success stories from our very own faculty, staff and students. Much of our impact and sustainability will be determined by your input and submissions to the newsletter. So please click here to contact the Editor or always find the contact information below. We are launching this first issue campus-wide, but if you would like to receive this newsletter in the future, please click here to subscribe or manage your subscription below.

Announcements

Online Instructors Professional Development Book Club
The Division of Extended Education is offering online instructors the opportunity to participate in a Professional Book Club. It will be a “Lunch and Learn” meeting via Zoom. Participants will read the nine-chapter book, *Minds Online: Teaching Effectively with Technology*, by Michelle D. Miller, and discuss one chapter per week: 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Tuesdays; January 16 – March 27, 2018 (Feb. 6 off for Faculty Development Showcase and March 20 off for Spring Break). Purchase the book and start reading! Space is still available. Contact extendeded@llu.edu to register.

**Congratulations to Dr. Gail Rice (SAHP) on her new book!**

*Hitting Pause: 65 Lecture Breaks to Refresh and Reinforce Learning*, that was published this month. "In this extraordinarily helpful book, Gail Rice provides two tremendous services to college faculty. First, she draws together research and arguments from a wide range of fields in order to demonstrate that simple, brief activities in class—built around the idea of creating "pauses" for student learning—can have a major positive impact on student success. Second, she presents a wealth of thought-provoking activities that faculty could begin using in their classrooms tomorrow. No faculty member will be able to read this book and not want to get immediately back into the classroom and put some of these excellent ideas into practice. An outstanding resource for faculty and those who work in faculty development." - James M. Lang, Professor of English, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Assumption College, and author of *Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning*.

**Program Directors Survey**

The combined efforts of the Deans, Academic Deans and central committees with the leadership of the Provost have developed LLU’s Academic Strategic Plan with the goal of educational excellence for the University. Programs are responsible to participate in this plan. A survey to all program directors has been sent out with a few, critical questions designed to encourage programs towards educational excellence. The due date to complete and submit the survey is January 20, 2018. A report of the program's submissions will be given to the February 2018 Board.

**Meet New OEE Team Members**
The Office of Educational Effectiveness (OEE) welcomes two new team members as Associate Directors: First, Euni Cho, who will also continue her work at the School of Dentistry as the Director of Educational Assessment, and second, Laura Alipoon, also holds the title and duties of Chair of the Department of Radiation Technology in the School of Allied Health Professions.

In this crucial period of preparing for the WSCUC formerly WASC Site Visit and conducting an Institution-wide self study, the Office of the Provost had directed considerable effort to fill the positon of Director of the OEE. In collaboration with their Schools, it was the right time and the right solution to bring Drs. Alipoon and Cho on board to assist the current OEE Director, Dr. Marilyn Eggers. They are tasked with a division of duties that include assisting Schools and Programs with their customized assessment plans; support in both LiveText and AMS; and launch of a Newsletter; and Committee support within the OEE. To read more about Laura and Euni, and their goals for the OEE, click here.

“The question for each man to settle is not what he would do if he had means, time, influence, and educational advantages, but what he will do with the things he has.”

Hamilton Wright Mabie

**INSIGHTS**

Medical Radiography Assessment Improves Student Learning
In 2014, amidst transitions in the department, the Associates Degree in Medical Radiography had a first-time mock board pass rate of 59% and a national board pass rate of 77%. Will Edmunds, MA, Assistant Professor and Joe Hewes, BS, Instructor, both faculty in the Radiation Technology program took on the challenge of identifying the gaps and closing the loop to improved outcomes. Click [here](#) to read the success story.
SUBMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please email assessment@llu.edu to suggest any information to be included regarding your department. Submissions are subject to approval from your dean and must be 100 words or fewer and include contact information.

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