

# ***The Stetson Teacher-Scholar***

STETSON UNIVERSITY  
**BROWN CENTER**  
 FOR FACULTY INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

*The Stetson Teacher-Scholar, published by the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence, is a monthly electronic newsletter that contains important updates about programming and other professional development opportunities for members of the Stetson teaching community.*

***"I am and always will be a catalyst for change"  
 -Shirley Chisholm***

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## ***The first six months***

This month's newsletter is the last of the year and what a year it has been. I was not going to write a newsletter this month but came to realize I should take the opportunity to share with you my experience as the Brown Center director. First and foremost, my eyes have been opened to what professional development and more specifically, faculty development entails. When I accepted this new role, I experienced a bout of imposter syndrome, but then I settled down and told myself I have the capacity to do this work. Although my career path has not followed that of a person whose career has been devoted to professional development, I have accrued a diversity of skills and experiences which I can draw from to effectively lead the Brown Center.

Over the past six months I have committed myself to learning about the field of faculty development, also referred to as educational development, to better understand not only my role as a director, but to inform myself of the evolution of the field of faculty development, current issues, and best practices. In addition to reading papers, the texts *A Guide to Faculty Development* by K.J. Gillespie, D.L. Robertson, et. al. and *Developing Faculty in Liberal Arts Colleges* by V.L. Baker, L.G. Lunsford and M.J. Pifer have proven invaluable and serve as key reference texts. Membership in the Professional and Organizational Development Network (POD Network) provides me access to a network of more than 1500 members representing several hundred colleges and universities as well as numerous resources related to faculty, instructional and organizational development. In addition to the POD Network, Stetson's membership with the Faculty Resource Network (FRN), a professional organization devoted to faculty development has proven very helpful. During the fall semester I attended the virtual national symposia hosted by POD and FRN. The FRN symposium is free to member institutions! Attending these meetings allowed me to:

- learn about current challenges and issues in the field of faculty/educational development,
- learn about the diverse types of programming created in response to COVID-19,
- gain a better perspective of the significance of the Brown Center's programming,
- gain a sense of where the Brown Center stands in terms of operational effectiveness compared to similar centers at public and private institutions, and
- gain a clearer vision of the Brown Center's role as a hub for diverse development opportunities.

### ***Teamwork***

A Council of four Faculty Fellows make-up a key element of the Brown Center leadership. Assembled during the summer and fall semesters, the fellow's work focuses on programming specific to:

- Digital and Remote Learning (Bill Sause, Business Analytics, SoBA),
- Equity and Inclusion (Lamerial McRae, Counselor Education, CAS),
- New and Contingent Faculty (Jamie Clarke, Coordinator of Chamber Music, SOM), and
- Publications and Scholarship (Melinda Hall, Philosophy, CAS)

During the summer and fall semesters the Faculty Fellows hit the ground running. Some of their contributions include:

- supporting online/hybrid learning via online discussion panels and creation of a library of written and video tutorials dedicated to online/hybrid course design,
- hosting virtual discussions of faculty scholarship via the Faculty Spotlight series,
- working with the Office of Sponsored Research and Strategic Initiatives to promote awareness of funding opportunities and grant writing support,
- planning and development of workshops focusing on the integration of diversity, equity, and multiculturalism into the classroom and curriculum,
- and
- the development of community-building virtual lunches and happy hours for new faculty

It is worth noting that each faculty fellow is a member of the POD Network. Fellows are encouraged to register for symposia (e.g., POD Network and FRN symposia), online courses and workshops to learn about faculty development in general and their areas of focus more specifically.

### ***Help us help you***

As the fall semester ends and I await the arrival of a new year and semester, I know there is a great deal of work ahead. Spring semester will bring new challenges and accomplishments. Over the last six months I have learned that faculty development needs input like a plant needs water. We need your input. Let us know what you need to be a better educator and scholar. Do you need specific readings? Would you prefer video tutorials when learning about new approaches to teaching? Do you have ideas about workshops? Do you seek peer mentorship or coaching? Is there information you are seeking but cannot find on the Brown Center website? These are just a few of the myriad of questions one could ask. Your input allows us to refine existing and create new programming to better meet your needs. So, please take a few minutes and let us know what you need. Send your input to [browncenter@stetson.edu](mailto:browncenter@stetson.edu) and enter "Faculty development feedback" on the title line. Remember, faculty development needs input like plants need water.

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