

# **The Stetson Teacher-Scholar**

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

**August 2023**



*The Stetson Teacher-Scholar is a digital newsletter that contains important updates about programming and other professional development opportunities offered by the Brown Center.*

*“Education must not simply teach work - it must teach Life.”*

*-- W.E.B. Du Bois*

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## **Welcome Back!!**



As we begin the 2023-24 school year, let us remember that we are a community that is facing many challenges and it is more important now than ever that we work together to sustain and support a culture at Stetson that:

- Embraces diversity in all its forms.
- Values the contributions of all members of our community.
- Provides the opportunities and conditions that allow community members to participate, thrive, and reach their full potential.
- Values personal and professional development.
- Supports dialog across difference with the goal of improving intergroup understanding, relationships, and cooperation.
- Models through action, an unwavering commitment to provide our students with an educational and social experience that prepares them to successfully enter and navigate an ever-changing global society.
- Recognizes service as an essential element of one’s professional trajectory that reflects a dedication to the University, society, and profession.

## **Consider Completing a Self-Paced Educational Development Course**

The Brown Center will support up to ten faculty (full-time tenure-track and non-tenure-track, and adjunct) who primarily teach in person to register and complete one self-paced course that is part of the [Effective Teaching Practices](#) framework offered by the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), a national organization endorsed by the American Council on Education. The Start Date October 7, 2023. The *Effective Teaching Practices* course package consists of the following four courses each of which can be completed in 6-8 weeks:

- Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environment
- Promoting Active Learning

- Inspiring Inquiry and Preparing Lifelong Learners
- Designing Learner-Centered and Equitable Courses

A separate ACUE course, [Fostering a Culture of Belonging](#) provides administrators, faculty, and staff with practices that foster an inclusive and equitable campus environment that mitigates the impact of implicit bias, microaggressions, imposter phenomenon, and stereotype threat thereby ensuring all students and colleagues feel seen, heard, and valued. *Fostering a Culture of Belonging* takes eight weeks to complete and is organized around the following competencies:

- Managing the Impact of Bias
- Reducing Microaggressions
- Addressing Imposter Phenomenon and Stereotype Threat
- Cultivating an Inclusive Environment

Completion of these four competencies yields a certification in Fostering a Culture of Belonging. The Start date for the *Fostering a Culture of Belonging* course is October 14, 2023. To learn more about *Effective Teaching Practices* and *Fostering a Culture of Belonging* visit [ACUE](#) . If you want to register for a course, complete the Brown Center's [registration form](#).

### ***Communities of Practice***

**Focused Inquiry Groups** – A Focused Inquiry Group (FIG) allow a small group (4-6 members) to meet in person or online to work together on a specific question, issue, or concern. As a type of community of practice, a FIG provides an opportunity for participants to recognize common challenges and work together to achieve a common goal. Members of a FIG do not have to reside in the same department. Some example FIGs are:

- Using ungrading as an adaptive assessment tool
- Support and accountability for writing
- Integrating fine arts into STEM
- Support networks for international faculty
- Integrating community engaged learning across the curriculum
- Creative ways to integrate faculty-student mentoring into the college experience
- Faculty-student community building to enhance student success and retention

A FIG will receive up to \$500 to support the group's work. (e.g., purchase of books, supplies, basic meals, refreshments, etc.). Meetings (60 -90 minutes) may take place anytime. A FIG is expected to meet at least four times. At least once before the end of the fall semester and at least once a month during the spring semester between January and March. A review a complete description of this community of practice click on this [link](#).

### ***Community Building***

We are all so busy. Teaching, meetings, research, personal and professional obligations, there is always something on our plate. In all the hustle and bustle, and related craziness, we sometimes forget that we are part of a community, and it needs nurturing too. The community is Stetson a wonderfully diverse

community. A community that now more than ever needs some attention – some support and restoration. In support of rebuilding and strengthening the community that is Stetson, The Brown Center is going to offer opportunities for members of the Stetson community to come together to talk and engage with one another in a place and space where folks can be themselves and engage in genuine conversation. Some possible community building offerings are:

- A bowling night
- Tailgating and attending a sporting event
- Breakfast, lunch, or dinner with colleagues
- A book club
- A special interest group
- A good old fashion Saturday BBQ

There are so many possibilities! So, keep an eye open for upcoming announcements!

### ***Stay Informed***

As the hub for faculty development, the Brown Center is committed to facilitating the development of faculty-led initiatives and collaborations throughout the school year. To stay informed about upcoming offerings, check the [Brown Center Blog](#) for announcements and postings of useful resources. A listing of scheduled Brown Center events is available via [Faculty Engage](#). The Faculty Engage link also provides access to archived recordings of faculty presentations or conversations that appear on the Brown Center YouTube Channel. Lastly, if you are interested in receiving announcements and updates directly please complete the short [subscription form](#).

### ***Always Seeking Input***

Do you need specific readings? Would you prefer video tutorials when learning about new approaches to teaching? Do you have ideas about workshops or other activities? Are you interested in mentoring and want to learn more? Do you seek peer mentorship or coaching? Do you want to talk about grants? Is there information you are seeking but cannot find on the Brown Center website? Do you just want to talk about designing or revamping a course? ***Please let the Brown Center know what interests you and what you need.*** Your input is vital and helps keep the center's programming relevant. So, please take a few minutes to complete this short but important [survey](#). ***Remember, faculty development needs input like plants need water. We cannot help you if you do not let us know what you need.***

Wishing everyone all the best as we start a new school year!!!

Harry Price  
Faculty Director  
Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence