

# STETSON UNIVERSITY

# BROWN CENTER

FOR FACULTY INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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May 2017–October 2017

Led by executive director **Julia Metzker, Ph.D.**, the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence continues to offer a diverse set of programming to support the Stetson Teacher-Scholar. A set of [guiding principles](#), developed to provide a conceptual framework to programming and resource decisions, places value on building inclusive communities of practice that span boundaries, embrace innovative & high-impact strategies and transfer agency to develop faculty leaders. The Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence continues to offer a diverse set of programming to support the Stetson Teacher-Scholar.

### BROWN TEACHER-SCHOLAR FELLOWS

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*The flagship program of the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation & Excellence prepares faculty leaders who inspire current and future faculty to aspire to excellence in undergraduate learning, teaching, and research. Fellows infuse niche areas of expertise across the Stetson community. Activities include:*

- Faculty searches are underway for two new Fellows to join Stetson in Fall 2018. A fellow in Sustainable Food Systems will help develop an interdisciplinary program in Food Studies. A fellow in Health Sciences will collaborate with the Stetson Wellness and Recreation Center to offer advance fitness assessments in and undergraduate research program.
- **Sam Houston** joined the faculty as the Brown Teacher-Scholar Fellow in Islamic Studies. He recently received his Ph.D. from the Florida State University. Dr. Houston will teach in the religious studies department and work with the Stetson and local communities to educate about Islam as well as global and local Muslim communities.
- **Ryan McCleary** joined the faculty as the Brown Teacher-Scholar in Biology. He has a diverse experience in scholarly research of venomous snakes. Dr. McCleary will teach biostatistics and introductory biology and is hoping to build collaborations between the biology and chemistry departments for proteomic characterizations of venoms.
- **Madison Creech** who joined the Stetson community in Fall 2016 as the Brown Teacher-Scholar Fellow in Creative Arts continues her fellowship for the second and final year. She recently exhibited a collaborative work at the Hand Art Center titled *Antibodies*
- **Lamerial McRae**, completed her Brown Teacher-Scholar Fellow in Counseling Education and joined the Stetson faculty in a tenure-track position.

### COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

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*Communities of Practice – a term coined by Lave and Wenger to describe “groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.” At the core of the Brown Center’s philosophy of faculty development, communities of practice develop academic leaders who advance the social nature of learning through mindful inclusion of diverse peoples and their lived experiences in communities of learners committed to excellence in education. Activities include:*

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual cohort of Brown Innovation Fellows will explore making their classrooms diverse communities of inclusive excellence.
- An open call for Inquiry and Teaching Circles has produced four circles with over 30 faculty involved. Circle applications are continuously received.

## FACULTY EXCELLENCE

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*Innovative strategies with the potential for high student impact are employed to engender learning, build relationships, interconnections and interdependencies that span departmental and disciplinary boundaries. Activities include:*

- A new course-design workshop series, Innovative Course Design for 21st Century Transformative Learning, initiates in September and continues through January.
- Faculty Spotlight luncheons continue to highlight Stetson faculty research accomplishments.
- 34 New faculty participated in a dynamic orientation.
- Over 100 faculty and staff attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Faculty Resource fair.
- Designed and delivered the inaugural FSEM Transformative Learning Institute. The institute was developed to provide an alternative credential for faculty teaching FSEM courses.
- Designed and developed an interactive workshop for faculty teaching FSEMs in Fall 2017.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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*Build leadership capacity in faculty to take action to advance the university's mission and build equitable structures that serve the greater purposes of higher education. Activities include:*

- Tom Vogel, Chair of Mathematics and Computer Science, attended the 2017 PKAL STEM Leadership Institute I.
- Harry Price, Chemistry, participated in the 2017 PKAL STEM Leadership Institute as an alumnus mentor. His participation in 2015 was sponsored by the Brown Center.
- A team of faculty and administrators attended the American Colleges & Universities Summer Institute on Integrative Learning and Signature Work. Their work focuses on bringing coherence to the FSEM, JSEM and Senior Project sequence for students in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Four faculty from diverse areas on campus are preparing applications for the 2018 NYU Faculty Resource Winter Network seminar in Puerto Rico.
- Collaborations are underway with the College of Arts and Science Dean's Office to develop workshops for Writing Enhanced courses and to support a task force charged with designing a flexible and equitable workload policy for senior capstone.
- Collaborated with Savannah-Jane Griffin to develop a comprehensive proposal to bring equity-minded and bias training to all campus constituents

## CENTER DEVELOPMENT

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*The Center has implemented a values-based SWOT analysis to identify strategic priorities, a set of guiding principles and criteria for resource allocation. Milestones in the Center's development include:*

- A proposal/capital request to engage the Booker House as a Space was unsuccessful. Planning to identify a dedicated space for the Brown Center and collaborative faculty engagements continues.
- Lynn Monahan has demonstrated herself as an extremely capable Project Manager and has made great strides towards streamlining the operations of the center.
- Increased the number of Brown Teacher-Scholar Fellows from three (3) to four (4).
- Planning for a regional course-design institute is underway. The institute will act as a new revenue source for the center.

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## SUMMARY OF CENTRAL INITIATIVES

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Upon completion of a conceptual framework and SWOT analysis, Center planning is transition from a phase of definition to sustainable development. For the 2017-2018 academic year, the Center will focus on two initiatives crucial to Stetson's future success:

- (1) A positive and inclusive campus climate
- (2) Student retention and persistence

These initiatives are intrinsically connected in that a student's motivation to retain and persist at the institution is directly dependent on their sense of belonging at the institution. The Brown Center is uniquely positioned to support faculty in creating positive and inclusive classrooms that will contribute to improved retention and persistence.

### **Programming Focus for 2017-2018 Year: Inclusive Pedagogies**

#### PROGRAMMING

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*To support these central initiatives, programming will revolve around **making excellence inclusive** through pedagogical innovations.*

- Host the inaugural institute in course design for essential learning. Participants will be eligible for receiving a certification in teaching courses that meet the Essential Learning Outcomes.
- Co-host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Inclusive Excellence in Teaching Symposium [February, 2017]
- Host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Colloquium in Teaching & Learning Innovation: Making Excellence Inclusive [April 6, 2017; Deland, FL]
- Implement an Innovation Grant Program to support project that advance Stetson's strategic priorities - dedicated to projects designed to address issues of retention and persistence
- Hire Brown Teacher-Scholar Fellows in Sustainable Food Studies and Health.
- Co-sponsor faculty participation in seminars, workshops, residencies, and conferences to support development and implementation of inclusive pedagogies.
- Support faculty scholarly endeavors writing lockdowns, writing retreats and supporting grant development.
- Collaborate with programs, colleges and schools to intentionally design effective curricular programs.

#### INVITATION TO TRUSTEES

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The Brown Center hosts two signatory events that celebrate the diverse approaches to teaching and learning on our campus. The Annual Colloquium on Teaching and Learning Innovation held in the Lynn Business Center on April 6<sup>th</sup>, is a wonderful opportunity to see first-hand the innovations faculty from Stetson and regional colleges and universities are employing in their teaching. The annual Teaching and Learning Day (Jan 12) will bring a facilitator to campus to guide the campus in designing learning

experiences that *make excellence inclusive*. Tia McNair, Vice President of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success at AAC&U is scheduled to present.

## STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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None to report during this timeframe.