CETL 12/04/20 B.SHEPHERD

This year, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning opened at UW-River Falls. These types of centers are common at many universities and are a way to improve student learning through giving faculty better training and resources.

MP3 RUNS: 89 sec O/C: THIS IS BROOKE SHEPHERD

BROOKE SHEPHERD: THIS YEAR, MANY PROFESSORS ARE TEACHING ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME. AT UW-RIVER FALLS, CYNDI KERNAHAN IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING OR CETL. KERNAHAN SAYS SHE HAD TO QUICKLY LEARN ALL SHE COULD ABOUT ONLINE TEACHING.

CYNDI KERNAHAN: WE RAN A FOUR WEEK COURSE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OVER THE SUMMER WITH ABOUT 50+ INSTRUCTORS. WE ALSO HAD A SELF PACED OPTION THAT 20 OR 30 PEOPLE DID IN MAY OR JUNE. THEN ABOUT 20 MORE PEOPLE IN AUGUST WITH A BOOT CAMP ONE WEEK VERSION OF THE JULY PROGRAM AS MUCH AS WE COULD DO TO TRY TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

BROOKE SHEPHERD: THOUGH THIS YEAR'S FOCUS HAS PRIMARILY BEEN ON ONLINE TEACHING, PROVOST DAVID TRAVIS SAYS THAT THERE ARE MANY OTHER AREAS CETL HOPES TO FOCUS ON AFTER THE PANDEMIC. THESE INCLUDE INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY.

DAVID TRAVIS: IT’S REALLY INTENDED TO BE A LEARNING GROUND FOR PEOPLE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW THEY CAN CONNECT WITH A WIDE RANGE OF STUDENTS. NOT JUST YOUR “TRADITIONAL” STUDENT. BUT ADULT STUDENTS, STUDENTS OF COLOR, FIRST GEN, LGBTQ, ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF STUDENTS THAT WE’RE BLESSED TO HAVE ON THIS CAMPUS.

BROOKE SHEPHERD: IN THE FUTURE, CETL WILL HAVE A PHYSICAL SPACE ON CAMPUS, BUT FOR NOW ALL OFFICE HOURS AND PROGRAMMING IS HELD VIRTUALLY. FOR FALCON NEWS, THIS IS BROOKE SHEPHERD.

Research shows that giving instructors the tools they need to grow their practice does positively impact student learning.

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