.bu **Digital Learning & Innovation**

ANNUAL REPORT

FY
2017

CREATING BU'S FUTURE TODAY

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PEDAGOGY, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

Boston University is committed to meeting the changing needs of higher education by excelling in the digital learning space.

Signifying the importance of digital learning to BU's future, the Provost established Digital Learning & Innovation (DL&I) at the beginning of FY2017 to increase the University's effectiveness.

Consolidating and Integrating Resources

DL&I brings together diverse digital learning resources under a single umbrella. During FY2017:

- **Center for Teaching & Learning** (CTL) delivered a broad set of consulting, training, and faculty development offerings, while also supporting the University-wide **BU Hub** effort with trainings and events

- **Educational Technology** (EdTech) upgraded and expanded technology platforms for digital learning, while providing consulting, training, and dedicated instructional media production

- **Digital Learning Initiative** (recently renamed the Digital Education Incubator) funded 18 new innovation projects and supported another 10 continuations of projects in development with faculty and academic staff

- We offered resources for deans and academic directors, including end-to-end consulting for launching online and hybrid programs

Consulting, training, and pilot development encourage technology-enabled learning at Boston University

Making Learning Visible

BU's growing use of ePortfolios is built on the **Digication** platform. Students are tasked to build interactive, multimedia reflections about their learning progress as the curriculum develops. This process actually deepens their learning. The Digication platform is supported by the EdTech team.

Building the Virtual Classroom

DL&I infrastructure investment enables faculty to conduct live classrooms over the Internet. The first usage of this specialized classroom was pioneered this year by the Questrom School of Business Executive MBA (EMBA) program.

RESEARCH-BASED PEDAGOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

I n its first full year as the **Center for Teaching & Learning** (CTL)*, this team established an instrumental role in:

- Advising faculty, post-doctoral students, and graduate students on course design and innovative teaching practices
- Supporting core initiatives across the University, such as the new general education curriculum (BU Hub)
- Counseling BU schools and colleges on best-practices in actively engaging students, "flipping" large-enrollment courses, implementing problem-based learning in STEM fields, and developing targeted course transformations
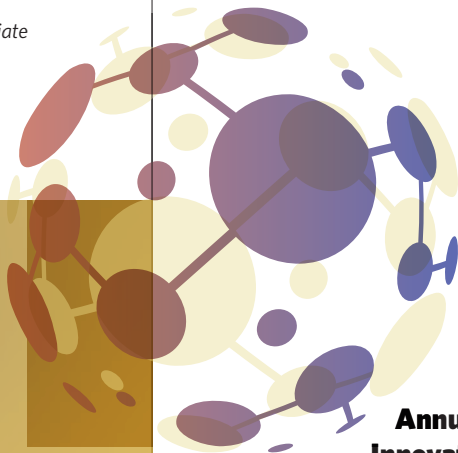
* *CTL supports both the DL&I and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs*

Gaining Time and Student Engagement

After an Earth & Science undergraduate course became a mandatory part of a multidisciplinary undergraduate program, meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds posed a significant teaching challenge. Supported by CTL and EdTech, Physics Professor Bruce Anderson created his own online video lectures and exercises, which the students had to complete before class. This was followed by in-class reviews and individual and group exercises.

New Faculty Retreat

This one-week workshop helped faculty within their first three years at BU to develop into exceptional teachers by providing them with knowledge, skills, and a supportive community of interdisciplinary peer educators.

> **"The New Faculty Retreat is a must for any new faculty member who either has to teach or is interested in teaching."**
>
> *New Faculty Retreat Participant*

Annual Educational Innovation Conference

The 7th AEIC brought together faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdocs from across BU to showcase excellence in teaching and learning and to explore collaborative visions of our future. This year's conference focused on Building Digital Communities for Teaching & Learning and explored significant issues regarding social media and student-centered pedagogy.

Hub Course Development Institute

This five-day workshop prepared BU Hub faculty to develop exceptional new courses by providing them with knowledge, skills, and a supportive community of faculty from across the university.

TOUCHPOINTS

873
trainings or Community of Practice sessions for faculty, graduate students, and/or staff

48
workshops

139
consultations with faculty, graduate students, or staff

11
consultations with outside institutions

210
attendees at two University-wide events

94
students through three Learning Analysis Polls

254
student learning assistants

Center for Teaching & Learning highlights of this year's activities included:

- **CTL offered 48 workshops**, including the Hub Course Revision Workshop, Hub Course Development Institute, Boston-Based Learning, Digital/Multimedia Expression, and the New Faculty Retreat

- **Two University-wide events**, including the 7th Annual Educational Innovation Conference and the 1st Annual Teaching with Technology Festival

- **Faculty Fellows Program**

- **3 Faculty Learning Communities**

- **1 Faculty Writing Group**

- **Learning Assistant Program**: 254 student participants across seven departments (biology, chemistry, chemistry-Sargent, engineering core, neuroscience, physics, women's gender, and sexuality studies)

- **Director Matthew Trevett-Smith** serves on the Classroom Renovation Committee, the Task Force for Evaluating Teaching, the Educational Technology Committee, the Learning Management System Sub Committee, and the Undergraduate Council

> " To make their courses truly learning-centered, teachers need to learn new and more powerful ways of systematically and intentionally designing their courses.
>
> — *L. Dee Fink*

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY WITH EdTech

The **Educational Technology** (EdTech) team helps BU's academic community do what they previously could only dream of. We work closely with the Center for Teaching & Learning to enable faculty and academic staff to leverage available and emerging learning-centered technologies for transforming their teaching, and for gaining deeper student engagement.

The EdTech team is deeply involved with instructional design infrastructure at schools and colleges on both the Charles River and the Medical Campus. EdTech provided significant assistance to the BU community this year in the following key areas:

- **Technology Enablement** Managing key learning platforms such as Blackboard Learn, Echo360, MyMedia, Turnitin, and many others

- **On-Demand Consultations and Assistance** Matching technology solutions to the unique needs of individual faculty or staff, an academic group, or an entire school or college

- **Faculty and Staff Technology Trainings**

- **Communities of Practice** Gathering places for academic and support staff interested in learning about or deepening their use of key technologies, such as Blackboard, ePortfolios (Digication), NVivo qualitative assessments, and social media

- **Technology Assessments** Researching technology platforms to identify the best solutions for implementation in BU's digital learning ecosystem

- **Multimedia Production & Distribution** Dedicated video production and post-production services for BU faculty and staff interested in incorporating blended learning into the curriculum or a specific course

Highlights Included:

- New production studio at 141 Bay State Road under the direction of veteran producers Bob Heim and Dave Charpentier

- Deployment of MyMedia (powered by Kaltura), BU's new Instructional Video Streaming Platform

- Deployment of the Campus Labs Assessment Management System for program-level assessment and reporting for Accreditation by NEASC

- Echo360 Cloud Migration: Migration of all content and devices from on-premises Echo System Server to Echo360 Cloud

- Online pilot with Campus Labs Course Evaluations

- Lo-Su King was awarded the 2017 Perkins Service Award

- Roland Jaeckel was nominated to the Taskforce for Evaluating Teaching in the Office of the Provost

- Scanning and Sorting: This part of the EdTech team handled the scanning of 136,396 bubble sheets this year, out of which 44,895 were for exams and 91,501 for data collection. A total of 726 exam jobs were processed, and 199 data collection/course evaluation jobs

"The EdTech team recommended I create three- to four-minute videos for my flipped course. These really made the students ready to jump into class."

Pari Fasihi, Lecturer, CAS Writing Program

TOUCHPOINTS

1021
faculty, graduate students, and/or staff attended trainings, events, or Communities of Practice

1184
consultations

1086
support sessions

Over **3,000** *individuals helped*

The **Digital Learning Initiative** (DLI) renamed itself at the end of this year to reflect its mission of finding and developing pilots for innovative new learning initiatives. The Digital Education Incubator (DEI) offers funding and development support for projects that address new venues for education and extend the reach of both residential and online learning. Selected projects are based on three strategic areas of focus:

1.
Expanding academic flexibility

2.
Leveraging BU-specific assets

3.
Supporting the development of BU's global signature

We also support the development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) aimed at unlimited, global learner participation through edX. This year DEI launched three new MOOCs, developed seven new ones, and reran eight MOOCs or learner-paced programs.

Highlights this year included:

8 New Projects Launched
3 MOOCs
1 Lifelong Learning Portal
2 Active Learning Projects
2 Digital Infrastructure Projects

10 Projects in Development
7 MOOCs
1 Lifelong Learning Project
2 Advising/Mentoring Projects

10 Returning Projects
8 MOOC Reruns or Learner-Paced Projects
1 Project-Based Learning Program
1 Advising/Mentoring Project

BU's First Micro-Masters Program

In FY17, DEI *was proud to announce and deliver the initial course in BU's first MicroMasters program, in cooperation with the Questrom School of Business. The **Digital Leadership** track offers skills and perspectives to lead in today's digital age, harnessing the power of digital technologies to drive business success. The **Digital Product Management** track offers essential tools and techniques to manage the development, launch and growth of digital products to advance one's career as a product manager.*

11,078
Total enrollment

A GLOBAL audience:
only **10%**
from US

New DEI pilot initiatives included:

3 MOOCs

Ethical Leadership — Explores theoretical and practical elements of ethical leadership with emphasis on leaders' personal narratives within social and historical contexts

Advancing Learning Through Evidence-Based STEM Teaching — Offers effective teaching strategies and research that supports them, and how to collect, analyze, and act upon evidence of student learning

Digital Transformation Strategy — BU's first MicroMasters series, teaching graduate-level strategies for driving business success in the new digital economy

1 LIFELONG LEARNING PORTAL

Population Health Exchange — A digital portal that organizes and delivers a variety of learning opportunities in public health, including for-credit and not-for-credit courses, online and in-person experiences, workshops, interactive case studies, and other programs and tools to help alumni and new groups of learners stay current and learn new public health skills

2 ACTIVE LEARNING PROJECTS

Learning Moment — A novel educational tool that uses interactive mapping technology to optimize experiential learning through logging "learning events" that occur during clinical work—accessible via an innovative mobile and web-based platform

Project Accelerate — Using content from DLI's AP Physics Prep MOOC in a small, private online course in under-resourced Boston Public Schools

2 DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT INVESTMENTS

Virtual Tuesdays — Implementation of Zoom technologies to enhance executive education at Questrom School of Business

MED Studio — A state-of-the-art studio that supports increased and improved production of customized digital media to promote active self-paced learning among students while dealing with the challenging constraints of limited curriculum time, faculty availability, and classroom space on the MED campus

> "The DEI provides strengthened leadership for making significant progress in digital learning."
>
> *Jean Morrison, BU Provost*

We help Boston University leadership, faculty, staff, and graduate students thrive in the emerging BU learning environment. Our mission is to harness the opportunities of digital technologies and pedagogical innovations to ensure that Boston University retains and strengthens its position as a world-class educational institution in the face of systemic transformation in higher education.

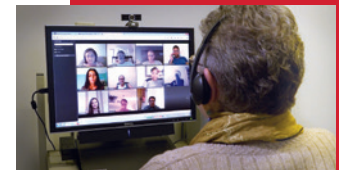|	
Pedagogy	■ Individual or group consultations ■ School, college, department aid ■ Course Development Institute ■ Faculty Learning Communities ■ Educational Innovation Conference ■ BU Hub trainings and events
Technology	■ Course transformation consulting ■ Technology training ■ Communities of practice ■ Media production ■ Technology assessment
Innovation Pilot Project Support	■ Seed funding ■ Project design and management ■ Implementation support
MOOCs	■ Funding and development ■ Partial credit degree programs ■ Charter edX partner
Online and Hybrid Programs	■ Program launch consulting ■ Online teaching training ■ Course production ■ Market research

Diverse Events for the BU Academic Community

Over
1500
attendees at events

1900
technology trainings or Communities of Practice sessions

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