

## DUKE LEARNING INNOVATION: HELPING DUKE FACULTY WITH FLEXIBLE TEACHING

Early this year, the Duke Learning Innovation team had a preview of what the spring semester would entail.

On Feb. 24, Duke Kunshan University transitioned to emergency remote learning in the wake of the coronavirus. Learning Innovation, which supports the university's digital learning efforts, [assisted DKU faculty in quickly pivoting their courses](#) online.

That early drill gave Learning Innovation early insights into what would soon be required of all U.S. institutions. By March, when Duke [suspended all on-site classes](#) for the rest of the semester, the team was helping thousands of Duke faculty ensure the continuity of their courses.



“The work was unrelenting,” said Matthew Rascoff, associate vice provost for digital education and innovation. “But under pressure, we found grace among faculty, students and staff colleagues across the university.”

In a typical year, Learning Innovation usually interacts with around 800 faculty asking for help with innovative teaching strategies, educational research and evaluation, learning technologies and online learning. During a four-week span between March and April of this year, the team responded to over 1,200 requests from faculty.

“They did a tremendous job helping faculty transition to remote learning for the second half of spring break as well as for the summer,” said Kim Bethea, director of the Academic Resource Center, in her nomination. “The resources and support they provided to faculty were exceptional.”

Learning Innovation set up and managed [keep-teaching.duke.edu](https://keep-teaching.duke.edu), the emergency teaching resource for Duke faculty. Blythe Tyrone, communication strategist for Duke Learning Innovation, sent an ongoing newsletter to faculty with virtual workshop opportunities, answers to frequently asked questions and informative blog posts.

In preparation for the fall semester, the team built the new [Flexible Teaching website](#) to help faculty design courses in any mode – face-to-face, online or various hybrids.

“To be part of a team that is so dedicated, that rises to a challenge that is so important, has been an unforgettable experience for all of us,” Rascoff said.

*This article was originally published as part of a collection of stories called [Dedicated Devils: Rising to the Challenge During COVID-19](#) published by Duke Today.*