Duke Learning Innovation & Lifetime Education

2023 Year-in-Review
Looking back at my first full year at Duke, we have accomplished so much. Our merged Learning Innovation and Continuing Studies teams are working together in new ways, integrating innovative pedagogy and technology with programs supporting a broad spectrum of learners, from pre-K through gray, all over the world. And with each day, we understand new ways to work together toward our shared mission to:

Put Duke on the map as a powerhouse for learning innovation and lifetime education.

Our focus areas as we move forward toward this mission are to grow the community of Duke learners, to broaden access to Duke learning opportunities, to increase teaching and learning effectiveness, and to be a trusted partner to our Duke colleagues and others we serve. I hope you will start to see these themes emerge as you take a look at all that we have accomplished this year.

And looking ahead, we will continue this work together under our new group name, Learning Innovation & Lifetime Education, starting this year.

Here’s to new opportunities in 2024,

Yakut
Leading The Way On
Emerging Pedagogies
at Duke University

On October 4 - 6, we hosted our inaugural Emerging Pedagogies Summit. By advocating a forward-looking vision for education that spans from pre-K through post-retirement, and embracing learning anytime, anywhere, we aim to elevate the national and global conversation about innovative and emerging pedagogies. Our goal is not only to raise awareness of new teaching and learning ideas and practices, but also to generate ideas and interest for applied research in emerging pedagogies. This vision is being realized in early 2024 with the launch of our latest initiative: Emerging Pedagogies Seed Grants and Faculty Fellowships.

Sanjay Sarma — CEO, President and Dean of the Asia School of Business — delivered a virtual keynote that answered the question: As the world rapidly changes around us, how can we improve education in order to make the process of adapting more effective and efficient?

This event earned the Green Event Certification from Sustainable Duke.

See our blog post series reflecting on the Summit sessions.

Every session was recorded - watch them here.
In June 2023, all-time enrollments in Duke’s Coursera courses passed 10 million! We first partnered with Coursera in 2012; today, there are over 90 courses hosted on Coursera that were developed by Duke instructors with support from our Learning Experience Design team. Coursera has been a valuable partner in helping us broaden access to a Duke education.

“My encounter with Coursera and Duke University has transformed my life. I am now not only a skilled software engineer but also a proud mentor and teacher, working towards making a positive impact on the lives of young individuals in my community.”

“It was tempting to quit the dream of becoming a neuroscientist but thanks to Prof. White’s approach I continued to study this topic. And here I am, doing my PhD in neuroscience with the hope of graduating soon.”

“I have a background in graphic design but I am now a full-time UX/UI designer and CRO specialist. Finishing [the HTML, CSS & Javascript course] was the first step in changing my career and I don’t think I would have been able to [do so] this quickly if I hadn’t.”

Read “A Decade of Global Reach, From Len White’s Backyard” to learn how one of the earliest courses Duke launched on Coursera is still going strong.

Using Virtual Reality To Immerse Online Students In Human Physiology

One of our longest-running Coursera courses, Introduction to Human Physiology, was updated with a new module that uses a virtual reality learning experience to help students better understand the cardiovascular system.
When OpenAI released its new generative AI chatbot ChatGPT in November 2022, higher education institutions were challenged to reevaluate student assessment and learning best practices. The sudden availability of ChatGPT, which could produce human-like content, was initially a source of anxiety about how it would impact education. Through a series of exploratory events that culminated in the Emerging Pedagogies Symposium session, “Rethinking Teaching and Learning in the Age of AI,” we worked with instructors to not only understand the challenges but also to imagine the possibilities this new technology presents.

Read “Duke Considers Pros and Cons of Artificial Intelligence” to see the takeaways from all of our AI-related events.

Watch Ashok Goel’s Keynote, “Teaching and Learning in the Age of AI.”

We joined Duke Libraries in representing Duke University in an Ithaka-S+R study, collaborating with 18 other leading institutions committed to “making AI generative for their campus community.”
In June 2023, we celebrated 45 years of curiosity, community and connection with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Duke. We were joined by 240 guests in person and another 100+ for the livestream.

Watch the livestream recording for Louise Aronson’s inspiring keynote that challenged how we think and feel about aging and the lifetime learner journey.

Starting in 2021, we sought out faculty who wanted to use their experiences from pandemic teaching to innovate the future of teaching and learning at Duke. We partnered with faculty and staff on 26 projects, many of which resulted in significant findings and resources. A limited selection of projects are highlighted below; see them all here. Though this initiative ended in 2023, we look forward to future opportunities to partner with faculty on educational research.

Empowering Duke Instructors To

Carry the Innovation Forward

After the Pandemic

Starting in 2021, we sought out faculty who wanted to use their experiences from pandemic teaching to innovate the future of teaching and learning at Duke. We partnered with faculty and staff on 26 projects, many of which resulted in significant findings and resources. A limited selection of projects are highlighted below; see them all here. Though this initiative ended in 2023, we look forward to future opportunities to partner with faculty on educational research.

- “Use of Virtual Interactive Patient Encounters to Prepare First-Year Medical Students for Clinical Practice”
  Roberts et al. in Acad Med.

- Virtual Exhibit: “In Relation to Power: Politically Engaged Works From the Collection”
  The Nasher

- “A validation of the short-form classroom community scale for undergraduate mathematics and statistics students”
  Tackett, Viel and Manturuk in JUTLP

- “Creating Interactive Telehealth Training Modules for Medical Professionals”
  Learning Innovation Blog Post
The Climate and Sustainability Teaching (CAST) Fellows Program provides support and a peer learning community for instructors who are interested in redesigning an existing course to substantively engage with issues of climate and sustainability.

This new program continues a long history of environmental education and sustainability leadership at Duke, and adds to the Duke community of climate- and sustainability-engaged scholars who wish to instill this engagement in their students.

Read “It All Connects to Climate” to meet the inaugural CAST Fellows.

Introducing A New Learning Management System To Transform the Duke Student Experience

In December 2022, in collaboration with Duke OIT, we announced that Canvas would replace Sakai as the LMS for Duke and DKU learners starting Fall 2023. Instructors were so eager to adopt the new platform that we had to limit our ‘early adopters’ to just over 350 faculty volunteers.

Visit go.canvas.duke.edu to learn more about the transition to Canvas.
In 2023, we welcomed several new leaders to our team with demonstrated expertise in higher education; professional, continuing, and online education; alumni engagement; and assessment. Some of these are dual appointments that highlight our commitment to partners such as Duke Alumni Engagement and Development and Duke Kunshan University.

Hilary Culbertson
Sr. Director of Marketing & Communications

Ying Xiong
Assistant Vice Provost for DKU Learning Innovation and Assessment

We invited Nelson Baker, Dean of Professional Education at Georgia Tech, to speak at Duke about the launch of Georgia Tech’s new Division of Lifetime Learning.

“People are thinking differently than they ever have before... So where does this leave us? It leaves us with lots of ideas for why we as an institution want to double down and really want to do what a university should do: educate, research, and service. In this new field, in this new endeavor that transcends one’s lifetime, what are those opportunities we might put in front of somebody at any age that changes their trajectory forever and gives them a better outcome at life?”

Inviting Expert Voices To Share Perspectives

We invited Nelson Baker, Dean of Professional Education at Georgia Tech, to speak at Duke about the launch of Georgia Tech’s new Division of Lifetime Learning.
Launching A New Summer Institute On Climate & Sustainability

The time for enacting sustainable, climate-smart policies and solutions is now. To meet this need, we supported the Duke Climate Commitment and Duke in DC in developing a program for professionals in careers related to policy who are interested in building a stronger foundation of knowledge in climate and sustainability.

Applications for the Summer 2024 cohort are now open.

Ensuring Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Are At The Heart Of What We Do

LEARNING
In August, members of the LILE DEIA Action Group toured the International Civil Rights Center & Museum. The museum is located within F.W. Woolworths, where four college students from North Carolina A&T began a sit-in movement, planned with colleagues from Bennett College, at a whites-only lunch counter on February 1st, 1960. This Greensboro sit-in led to a wider sit-in movement at universities nationwide. The group learned more about our local history as well as the broader history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

TAKING ACTION
In collaboration with Duke OIT, we spent six months ensuring the Canvas platform is inclusive and accessible for the Duke community. First, we integrated the Canvas platform with the Duke directory to display users' desired names and pronouns. Second, we licensed and integrated the Accessibility UDOIT tool to assist faculty with scanning and fixing content created or uploaded in Canvas for accessibility.
Research, Evaluation and Development: In partnership with the Learning Technology Services team, the RED team evaluated the new Sakai Conversations tool using a Value Sensitive Design model and presented their findings at the American Educational Research Association Conference in April 2023.

Pre-College: The 2023 Summer Session had 1,291 total course enrollments with 90 courses and course sections available during Term 1 and Term 2.

Bass Digital Education Fellows: Five Duke PhD students from English, Music Composition and Classical Studies were selected for the 2022-23 cohort. Learn more about the Fellows.

Teaching Innovation: We partnered with Interdisciplinary Studies to guide faculty and PhD students in five departments in developing new undergraduate summer session courses. See the courses.

Nonprofit Management: Because of continued virtual training, there was a 20% increase in out-of-state participation both in individual classes and Nonprofit Intensive Tracks.
Integrating Academic Technologies with Faculty Development
(Centering Centers Podcast)

Duke Digital Courses Come to Ukraine, Kazakhstan
(Duke Today)

Fulfill Your Love of Lifelong Learning
(Duke Today)


DeRiso, L. (October 2023). Diversity through data: How collecting and analyzing various data can enhance diversity in programming. Presentation accepted for the Association for Pre-College Program Directors Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA.

Customer-Centric Education: Meeting the Needs of Adult Learners (Illumination by Modern Campus Podcast)

