



Office of the Vice Provost for Instruction

A note from the Vice Provost

Dear faculty and staff,

High Impact Practice (HIPs). A phrase often tossed about when talking about what matters in effective teaching, sometimes misunderstood, always worth considering. According to the Association of American Colleges & Universities, there are commonly eight key elements to HIPs:

- Performance expectations set at appropriately high levels
- Significant investment of time and effort by students over an extended period of time.
- Interactions with faculty and peers about substantive matters
- Experiences with diversity, wherein students are exposed to and must contend with people and circumstances that differ from those with which students are familiar
- Frequent, timely, and constructive feedback
- Periodic, structured opportunities to reflect and integrate learning
- Opportunities to discover relevance of learning through real-world applications
- Public demonstration of competence



At Augusta University, elements of HIPs practice are most often implemented in our First and Second-Year Experiences, in our Learning Communities, in the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, in Internships, and in Diversity and Global Learning. But, in my observations of teaching practice and my conversations with faculty, I have discovered that many of you are doing this kind of work already, all of the time, and doing it well. Sadly, we have not captured those remarkable teaching efforts reliably and publicly and as a consequence, the work goes on without due celebration. I think our faculty deserve public acclaim for this important work and because I think students would like to know where to find those kinds of learning experiences.

In that spirit, over the past year select faculty members at Augusta University have been representing AU in a statewide endeavor, and out of that work, they have been considering our work in HIPs with an eye toward what we are doing well and what we ought to be doing differently. Led by Dr. Quentin Davis, I wanted to thank Professors Andy Hauger, Lee Anna Maynard, Beth Huggins, and Hannah Bennett for engaging in this work as we seek to understand where we are successfully implementing HIPs practices and where we need to expand our efforts. Excitedly and conveniently, I think we can extend and expand our HIPs practice in concert with our new strategic plan. Of the five strategic priorities and the three interwoven priorities, I would suggest that High Impact Practices occupy a significant presence in the Strategic Priority of Learning. Additionally, I might also suggest that HIPs are notably enhanced when threaded with three interwoven priorities of Innovation, Engagement, and

Diversity/Equity/Inclusion. All of you who embrace the art of instructional practice see this alignment as obvious, I suspect. However, I want to claim High Impact Practice, as we currently do and as we expand in our doing, as central to our work where teaching matters.

I want to invite your feedback as you help me answer: When examining what we are doing well and planning for what we want to do in the next five years, what is the role of High Impact Practice in making the learning experience at Augusta University like no other? Hope to hear from you and thank you for what you do every day, every time.

Sincerely,

Zach Kelehear



[Call for Proposals: Education Innovation Fund \(EIF\) Grant](#)

As we seek to be a university where high-impact innovative learning is at the core of the undergraduate experience, Augusta University directly supports faculty whose efforts reflect this commitment. As part of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *Learning by Doing*, an Education Innovation Fund (EIF) has been established to support teaching faculty who wish to pursue experiential learning opportunities with their students in an undergraduate course. Experiential learning is broadly defined and includes various methods of active learning pedagogy such as (but not limited to) team based projects, field work, teaching content, research, product development, and service learning. To this end, the Division of Instruction and Innovation invites faculty to submit an EIF Grant proposal that will encourage the development of experiential learning opportunities for AU students.

Innovation Updates



[IPSO Features Vlad Cobzaru](#)

This month, IPSO is featuring Vlad Cobzaru, a student in the Doctor of Dental Medicine program in the Dental College of Georgia. Cobzaru, who is from Iasi, Romania, came to the U.S. to complete his undergraduate degree and play basketball at Augusta University. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 2018, he applied to DCG's DMD program and was accepted. This profile is part of a series aimed at introducing you to some Augusta University's international community members who contribute so much to our institution.

[Undergraduate Research Fair](#)

Mark your calendars! CURS hosts the annual Undergraduate Research Fair November 10 from 11am to 3pm in the JSAC on the Summerville campus. Faculty are encouraged to attend the Meet and Greet sessions to find new research students and join the Mentor Roundtable to discuss topics around mentoring undergraduates. Visit [the CURS Website](#) for a full schedule.



[IGIVE for Innovation](#)

When you make a gift to Augusta University through IGIVE, you're ensuring an even brighter future for our students, faculty and patients. All of AU's 15,000 employees have a unique role, but the impact that we can collectively have on the lives of others is immeasurable. IGIVE is the chance for us to support the place that enriches our lives—and changes the lives of others.



[Faculty Engagement with Student Success](#)

This fall we redesigned our Progress Report program in coordination with the Academic Advisement Center, Academic Success Center, Department of Athletics, and the Writing Center. Two campaigns were sent to faculty teaching select courses (primarily Gateway to Completion courses). This was done in response to faculty feedback to make the reporting functionality easier and to be strategic in our efforts to support students.



[GRIT Month: Student Letters](#)

During the month of October, 150+ students reflected on their own “grittiness” this fall and wrote themselves a letter to encourage resilience into spring. These “Dear Me” Letters will be mailed to their home addresses over the December break.

[Read more »](#)



[BOOK Club WRAP UP ... Ready for Spring 2022?](#)

This fall, over 60 AU students have joined one of the five FYE/SYE book clubs. The books were specifically selected to engage small groups of students in their discussion of Purpose and Pathways.

[Read more »](#)



[Career Services November Events](#)

Career Services has a variety of sessions scheduled for November. Students can register for any program by contacting Career Services at careercenter@augusta.edu or 706-737-1604.

[Read more »](#)

View Previous Teaching Matters Issues

Need to refer to a previous issue of the Office of the Vice Provost's Teaching Matters? Each monthly issue of Teaching Matters has also been preserved in Scholarly Commons. A note by the Vice Provost for Instruction, Dr. Zach Kelehear, introduces the issue each month. Table of Contents include information in the areas of Innovation Updates, Faculty and Staff Updates, and Student Updates. See the complete collection on the [Augusta University Open Repository](#)

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