

September 8, 2008

**Merger of Faculty Support Units – CDL and CTLA are now CLEAR**

For the past 10 years, UNT has benefited from the support of the Center for Distributed Learning (CDL), and has emerged as a leading provider of online courses. More recently, the Center for Teaching, Learning and Assessment (CTLA) was created to provide support for UNT's Quality Enhancement Plan, Next Generation Course Redesign and, more generally, improvements in classroom instruction. UNT continues to be a national leader in the redesign of large enrollment classes and has recently received a 1.8 million dollar grant to enlarge and extend this effort.

Effective September 1, the two centers merged into a single faculty support unit named the Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR).

CLEAR will offer the same services that CDL and CTLA offered independently in the past, but will also be introducing new services with the addition of Dr. Bradley Shope, who has joined CLEAR as a faculty professional development specialist.

Dr. Philip Turner, formerly Vice Provost for Learning Enhancement, has returned to a faculty role with the School of Library and Information Sciences, but he will remain involved with UNT's Quality Enhancement Plan and Next Generation Course Redesign. The University is grateful for his 12 years of visionary leadership. Due in large part to Dr. Turner's focused attention to learning enhancement, UNT has gained a position at the forefront of distance learning and course redesign.



CLEAR will be led by Patrick Pluscht, the former Director of CDL. In his new role as the director of CLEAR, Patrick will serve on the Provost's Senior Staff and assume most of the responsibilities previously handled by the Vice Provost for Learning Enhancement. Patrick's leadership team will include associate directors, Jane Himmel and Dr. Kelly McMichael, and assistant director, Joesph [sic] Hoffmann. It is with great pleasure that I introduce CLEAR to the UNT campus community.