



TOURO UNIVERSITY
C A L I F O R N I A

Meet the CILT team



Serving both the campuses of Touro University Nevada and Touro University California, the Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching (CILT) provides resources to aid in student learning, teaching, faculty development and more to address the needs of 21st century students.

[Visit the CILT Website](#)

Introduction

The Center for Innovative Learning and Teaching (CILT) was conceptualized in 2014 by Drs. Pamela Redmond and Jim O'Connor. A proposed budget and a new initiative proposal were submitted to the Touro College and University System for approval in the summer of 2014 with the intention of starting the center in Fall of 2015. During the 2015 academic year, Dr. Redmond received a small stipend and served as Interim Director in addition to her other teaching assignments. She conducted several workshops during the 2015-16 academic year. It was also during the 2015-16 academic year that CILT was included in the Touro University California Five-Year Strategic Action Plan as an important initiative. The Center was designed to provide faculty (and sometimes staff) development to both Touro University California and Touro University Nevada employees.



The new initiative proposal did not receive funding during the 2016-17 academic year, and the center then went dormant. In the summer of 2017, Dr. O'Connor stepped down as Dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences to serve as the first full-time Director of CILT, which serves both the Touro University California and Touro University Nevada campuses (the Touro Western Division). During the first semester, Dr. O'Connor was on sabbatical. Upon returning in January of 2018, he began to meet with faculty and administrators on both campuses to determine what the faculty development needs were for the TCUS Western Division. As well, he visited numerous teaching and learning centers at Bay Area universities to better understand how they operated.

One of the first major assignments for CILT was to lead the transition from BlackBoard to Canvas at both the TUC and TUN campuses. Thanks to the hard work, talent and outstanding efforts of both Dr. Michael Barbour, an instructional designer and Associate Professor of Education in the Graduate School of Education at TUC, and Debbie Millican, instructional designer at TUN, the transition was a success. Both individuals served as CILT Center Fellows.

Another important initiative of CILT began in August of 2018, when the first course on Effective Teaching in Higher Education, which was designed by the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), was offered to faculty on both campuses. In October, 2018, Dr. O'Connor was asked to serve as Interim Director of the TUC Instructional Technology (IT) Department along with Gary Van Winkle. This lasted until June of 2019, and O'Connor's focus on CILT was obviously reduced as a result of his IT

responsibilities.

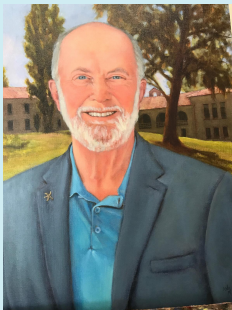
During the 2019-20 academic year, Dr. O'Connor presented over a dozen workshops for faculty and staff at both the TUC and TUN campuses. He also did several presentations for TCUS faculty and staff. As well, he, along with Dr. Rob Askey of TUN, co-facilitated two cohorts of faculty, one from TUC and one from TUN, in the Effective Teaching in Higher Education course. He also worked individually with several TUC faculty providing formative feedback to improve their teaching.

CILT provides the following services to both TUC and TUN:

1. Serve as a resource center for all faculty to assist with development of teaching pedagogies, assessment of student learning, and skills necessary to address the learning needs of 21st century students.
2. Feedback and assessment of faculty needs related to their teaching and the proposed Faculty Evaluation plan.
3. Provide faculty development opportunities and training
4. Develop a resource library (both virtual and physical) in collaboration with the TUC and TUN libraries that includes evidence-based research and reports on effective teaching and learning practices.
5. Host seminars and discussions on topics relevant to innovation in teaching and learning
6. Lead and organize efforts to bring speakers to campus who are experts in areas relative to learning and teaching
7. Pursue grant opportunities and endowments to support the work of the CILT
8. Provide expertise on the uses of digital media and technology to support and improve student learning, teaching effectiveness and assessment.
9. Support the Colleges in Faculty Evaluation peer reviews when requested
10. Support faculty with video analysis of their teaching including but not limited to: pre/post conferences, self-analysis of teaching, styles, strategies and effectiveness.
11. Explore innovations in the use of digital media in teaching, including "flipped" teaching and project/problem-based learning, active learning, and authentic assessment measures.
12. Serve as a resource for Interprofessional Education (IPE)
13. Work to develop opportunities for student exposure to telehealth
14. Collaborates with the TCUS Center for Excellence in Learning & Teaching (CELТ), and the TCUS Center for Online Education
15. Sends information via email announcements to faculty and staff regarding teaching, learning and related topics

CILT UNDERGOES DRAMATIC EXPANSION AS OF JULY 1, 2020

Per the direction of TUC Provost Sarah Sweitzer, the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning has expanded its scope of work on the TUC campus. The Center will now include the: (1) TUC Media Production Studio, operated by Jeff Reedy; (2) the TUC Simulation Lab, managed by Aaron McMath, and (3) the TUC Clinical Skills Lab (OSCE Center), Directed by Cee Harrelson who is assisted by Rebecca Howard and Stephen Tessier. Dr. Jim O'Connor remains as Director of CILT, which will continue to provide the services listed above, along with the new functions just mentioned. Again, the ACUE course on Effective Teaching in Higher Education is being offered this academic year. There is a class of thirty faculty from TUC and TUN, and the course is focused on Online Learning.



Jim O'Connor, CILT Director

Hi, I'm Jim O'Connor, Director of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning for the TCUS Western Division (TUC and TUN). I am beginning my fourteenth year at Touro University California. I have a background both in health sciences and teaching. I was one of the first physician assistants in the United States, and assisted in thousands of surgical procedures in Ohio and Alaska. I have a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry, a Master's degree in College and Community Counseling, and a PhD in Cognitive Psychology specializing in teaching, learning and instruction.

Prior to coming to Touro I taught at Kenai Peninsula Community College in Homer, Alaska and California State University Bakersfield (CSUB). I left CSUB to become a Center Fellow at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching in the Great Smokey Mountains, where I designed interdisciplinary renewal seminars for North Carolina public school teachers. After that I spent thirteen years at the University of Iowa, teaching educational psychology courses and supervising student teachers. I also served as a sports psychologist for the Iowa Hawkeye football team.

I left Iowa to come to Touro in September of 2007. My Dad had been stationed on Mare Island during World War II, and I had always wanted to live in the San Francisco Bay Area. I came to TUC as the Associate Dean of the College of Education. I have served in the following positions at TUC: Interim Director of the Joint Physician Assistant/MPH program, Dean of the College of Education, Founding Dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences, and Interim Co-Director of the TUC IT

Department. Also, I served as Chair for the TUC Five-Year Strategic Action Plan in 2015.

On a personal note, I am an avid traveler, having visited 46 countries and all 50 states. I have been swimming several times a week since 1983 including hundreds of miles in San Francisco Bay. I am a member of the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club in San Francisco. I am also an avid scuba diver having logged almost 1000 dives and reaching the status of DiveMaster. I love sports, theater, music, playing friendly games of poker, movies, cooking, baking, and dogs.

I am a member of the LGBTQ community (he/him/his), and I am a strong supporter of diversity and racial equality. I am a highly flawed individual who has made tons of mistakes during my life.

I thoroughly enjoy my work at Touro and love working with faculty in order to improve the learning experience for TUC and TUN students. I most value the friendships in my life, including those I have made at Touro



Rebecca Howard, Standardized Patient Trainer

Inspired by her own healthcare experiences, as well as a chance to flex latent acting muscles, Rebecca Howard came to Touro University in 2005 as one of its first Standardized Patients (SPs). In 2009, she became Touro University's Standardized Patient Trainer & Recruiter.

In this role, she has met and hired, trained and coordinated dozens of people from Vallejo and around the Bay Area to work in the Standardized Patient Program, helping to build a bridge between Touro and nearby communities, as well as work to create and offer authentic patient experiences for Touro's students. She enjoys bringing Standardized Patients and students together to support the ideal of

healthcare providers partnering and communicating humanely with those in their care. Howard also helped develop and write a handbook for SPs.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and mass communications from Kansas State University, and for many years worked as a feature writer, editor, proofreader and fact-checker for newspapers and other publications in Southern California. She has continued her passion for writing — and food — in her blog, "A Woman Sconed," and her monthly column, "Cooking My Way Home," for Kansas Country Living magazine, where she writes about food and memories of growing up rural. Living on Mare Island is as close to country life as any place Howard has lived in California, and she enjoys spending time in the natural beauty of the area. In addition to cooking, baking, reading and writing, she enjoys photography, short stories, movies, lifting weights and practicing yoga.



Aaron McMath, Simulation Technician

Aaron McMath is a Simulation Operations Specialist with a background in theater, film and video. It started when he fell naturally into stage and film acting, then slowly transitioned to the other side of the camera.

Prior to coming onboard at TU, Aaron split time between field/studio production and post-production, working as a camera operator, editor, director, studio manager, and technical director. He has directed and produced short films, trailers, music videos and local commercials, and has worked on reality shows, documentaries and episodic web television.

One of his most recent jobs utilized the Zoom platform to integrate a video studio with cameras and switcher into a streaming talk-show with audience participation. Aaron has also worked in visual effects, and as a post-script editor for major motion pictures. He has assisted renowned directors and award-winning editors, supervised large multi-cam productions, and has spent many years working in a storytelling medium characterized by evolving methods and technologies.

He has a persistent passion for character development and narrative form, and has worked with artists, producers, actors and technicians in many capacities. Aaron also enjoys creative writing, surfing, martial arts and dance, and has been featured in nation-wide television commercials.



Cee Harrelson, Clinical Skills Lab Director/Standardized Patient Program Director

Watching students partner with standardized patients in learning has always been thrilling to Cee Harrelson. While she enjoys all aspects of her role at Touro, watching those interactions will always be the best.

Cee began working with standardized patients 22 years ago at Western University in Pomona, CA. After working for many years as a Unit Clerk/Monitor Tech in ICU and many years in the performing arts, SP education was a beautiful blend of her experience. In 2005 she came north to Touro to establish a program of SP's and an OSCE Lab to deliver SP assessment encounters to COM students.

Very quickly it grew to accommodate physician assistant and pharmacy students, expanding further by

adding patient encounters into teaching as well as assessment. Cee collaborates with faculty on case materials, event design and delivery. She schedules events, manages the software which runs the lab and supports the most recent expansion in 2017, a simulation suite with high fidelity human simulators. Cee graduated from Pitzer College in Claremont, CA with a BA in English and World Literature. She returned to the theatrical stage in 2018 after a long hiatus. She plans to pick up that thread again post pandemic.



Jeff Reedy, Video production

Jeff Reedy is a mild-mannered Touro employee hired in February 2007. By day, he's a video and content producer, an audio engineer by trade who can operate video cameras, work sound equipment, track audio, and edit and finish video.

By night, he studies Physics and works toward his capstone project slated for Fall 2020 at Sonoma State University's student STEM symposium for graduating students. When he's not contemplating mathematical models that reflect our world around us, he enjoys working with faculty and staff at TUC to produce educational video content for their respective programs.

What services does he provide?

Production services including on-site video production and filming in the green screen space:

- Project consultation (pre-production)
 - Directing
 - Producing
 - Videography
- Production recording
 - Lighting
- Principal photography

Post-Production Services:

- Audio engineering
 - Video editing
 - Motion graphics
 - Color correction
- Sequence exporting to a file
- Distribution of exported projects to project initiator via BOX



Stephen Tessier, Clinical Skills Lab Administrative Assistant

I am the Administrative Assistant for the Clinical Skills Lab at Touro University California Campus. In this position, I work closely with the director and my coworkers providing administrative assistance. I provide support on the department budget, events, and projects.

Prior to my position at Touro, I worked in the supported services field in Marin County for individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am from Boston, Massachusetts, where I worked in the administrative field for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)

then as a Project Assistant at Harvard Clinical Research Institute. I joined Touro University in January of 2018.