Imagining, Creating, Innovating the Future

CRTLE NEWSLETTER

NEWS 122, December 10, 2025

UTA Faculty

Warmest wishes for a peaceful and joyful holiday season and a bright New Year!

Participate in UTA Technology Test Kitchen:
AI + Adobe Creative Portfolio Workshop!

An interactive space where faculty can explore digital tools and learn practical strategies to integrate technology into their teaching.

AI Literacy + Multimodal Teaching

January 15, 2026:

Level Up Your Career Portfolio Assignments with Adobe Express (30 minutes)

Create a ready-to-use, AI-enhanced digital teaching portfolio in one afternoon.

Faculty will:

• build a 3-part Adobe Express teaching portfolio

• learn rapid AI-powered design workflows

• receive personalized support

• explore UTA's new Technology Test Kitchen space

Hands-on. High impact. Very limited seating.

Registration has already opened to strong demand — early signup is recommended.

Next Session:

January 23, 2026:

Supercharge your Syllabus: Multimodal Design in Adobe Express

All sessions will take place in Trinity Hall, OIT Service Desk from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

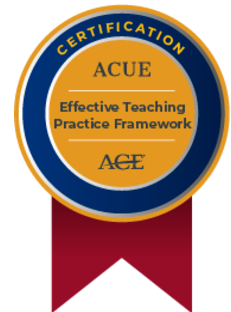Register for the Technology Test Kitchen January Sessions

Sign up for ACUE this Sping!

Are you passionate about enhancing student success and advancing your teaching practice?

Join your colleagues in enrolling in ACUE's Courses on Effective Teaching Practices. These evidence-based, flexible courses are designed specifically for higher education faculty and focus on strategies proven to improve student engagement, retention, and learning outcomes.

Sign up now for two more Spring 2026 stackable courses beginning January 26th, with in-person teaching focus and online-focused teaching tracks tailored to your teaching style. **Deadline to register is January 12th!**

- *Inspiring Inquiry and Preparing Lifelong Learners*
- *Creating a Productive Online Learning Environment*

Don't miss out! Secure your spot and take part in an inspiring year of professional growth!

Visit the UTA-CRTLE ACUE Information Page

Apply for the IRB Mentor Fellowship!

As a part of a new IRB Mentoring Initiative, CRTLE and the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS), are looking for two IRB Mentor Fellows.

This fellowship enhances faculty development in mentoring by supporting students conducting human subject research, helping them navigate IRB requirements and prepare high-quality protocol submissions.

Fellowship Details:

- **Duration:** 1 semester (Fall or Spring), renewable

- **Commitment**: 3 – 4 hours per week

- **Stipend:** $2,500 (paid at semester end)

- **Application Deadline:** *January 15, 2026*

<div align="center">Learn more and apply!</div>

Call for Proposals: UT System OER Grant Program

The UT System Office of Academic Affairs is inviting proposals for the **Curricular Innovation through OER Grant Program,** a two-year initiative supporting the use of Open Educational Resources to enhance teaching, curriculum design, and student success. A total of **$250,000** in funding will be awarded across individual and collaborative projects systemwide.

Each institution may submit up to four proposals, with local review led by library and academic leadership before final selection by UT System. Details about UTA's internal review process will be shared soon. UTA proposals will be due **Friday, January 16.**

Click [Here](#) to learn more.

Questions? Contact the [OER & Digital Scholarship team](#).

Faculty Mentoring Spotlight
Focus on Dr. Dereje Agonafer

The Faculty Spotlight series showcases excellence in faculty teaching and mentoring.

CRTLE highlights exemplary mentorship at UT Arlington. Dr. Agonafer, a Presidential Distinguished Professor and National Academy of Engineering member, has graduated 259 graduate students (including 42 PhDs) since 1999 and currently advises a large, active cohort. His mentorship combines rigorous, hands-on research, direct industry collaborations, strong professional networking, and a lab culture built on trust, real-world responsibility, and long-term support.

Many of his mentees go on to work at top-tier companies, a testament to his commitment to preparing "career-ready" engineers. If you're interested in meaningful faculty-student mentoring, this profile is well worth a read.

To read more, visit: Pedagogy NEXT

Featured Faculty: Spotlight Series

Nominate Faculty and Staff!

The Featured Faculty Spotlight Series celebrates the creativity, innovation, and impact of educators across our campus. Each spotlight highlights faculty and staff who bring fresh ideas to teaching, mentorship, and learning innovation. Faculty can be nominated by peers, students, or self-nominate to share their story.

LEARN MORE

Teaching AI Literacy in the Age of Scams:

A Conversation with Dr. Gabriel Aguilar

This is a timely and important read. Aguilar, an assistant professor of technical writing, draws on his personal experience being scammed as a student to show how modern fraudsters leverage AI-tools (voice cloning, deep-fake audio, etc.) to trick vulnerable individuals. His work argues that teaching students "AI literacy," particularly through technical and professional communication courses, can equip them to detect deceptive AI tactics and help protect not only themselves but also their families and communities. The post also outlines a practical, four-part framework for instructors who want to incorporate AI-scam awareness into their teaching. Check it out, especially if you're interested in how we might integrate critical AI-literacy and digital responsibility into our courses.

Read more of this conversation at: Pedagogy NEXT

Sign up for the MavAssist Pilot Program!

MavAssist is a UTA campus-wide AI assistant. In participating in the pilot, you will be one of the first to explore UTA's campus-wide AI agent. The agent aims to provide support and resources for employees to help improve productivity.

As a participant, you will be asked to utilize the agent and provide feedback about responses and your experience.

MavAssist Pilot Details

- Complete the Interest Form before **December 11th.**
- Join the MavAssist Testing **Teams channel** for collaboration and engagement.
- Attend an information session during the week of Dec. 15 for an overview of the pilot and guidance on participation. You will get a calendar invite for this session.
  Contact Lee Pierce in OIT for more information: lee.pierce@uta.edu

Complete the MavAssist Interest Form

FACULTY RESOURCES

aPlus+ Attendance

Want to take attendance, but don't have much time? aPlus+ Attendance is for you! As of Fall 2025, aPlus+ Attendance is now available in all Canvas courses! This tool is designed to streamline the process of taking and recording attendance, saving you time and ensuring accurate records. All class meeting times are preloaded into the system to make it even more convenient. **Learn more!**

Generative AI Guidelines for Instruction

REVISED AND UPDATED!

Explore UTA's revised Guidelines for the Considered Use of Generative AI in Instruction, a practical resource to help faculty make informed decisions about when (and when not) to incorporate GenAI tools in their teaching. The guide outlines approaches ranging from cautious limitation to purposeful integration, always grounded in how these technologies can support (or hinder) your course-level Student Learning Outcomes. With recommendations tailored to different instructional goals and disciplines, this resource offers a balanced framework for aligning GenAI use with UTA's standards of academic integrity. We invite faculty to browse the Table of Contents and dive into the sections most relevant to their teaching needs. **Access the Guide**.

ASK A MAVERICK!

Who is your FAVORITE Professor?
What is your FAVORITE Class?

Recently, CRTLE launched its **"Ask A Maverick"** campaign and visited the Library Plaza to ask students about their favorite courses and professors.

CRTLE is gathering these student insights to highlight and celebrate exceptional teaching and learning experiences across our campus. We will continue these pop-ups next semester!

READ MORE HERE

Did you miss our Special Edition Newsletter focused on Innovation in Instruction?

Access it here

Did you miss a CRTLE Session?

Don't worry! We have recaps of all CRTLE sessions on our blog!

PEDAGOGY NEXT

Follow us on social media!

Click the logo above to go directly to the CRTLE pages

Don't miss what's coming up at CRTLE! Find out [here](#)!

Visit the CRTLE Website for Updates on Events and Access to Our Many Teaching Resources: www.uta.edu/crtle

Learn and Achieve Together

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