

Chairs Update September 2017

Message from Chair Fellow

"None of us is as smart as all of us."

- *Translated, Japanese proverb*

Across the education landscape from kindergarten to graduate school, August is the month of retreats, workshops, open-houses and orientations. Oakland University is no exception; the late weeks of August pushes our community into department retreats, New Student Convocations, Faculty Orientations.

Although sometimes reluctant to give up a last summer day in exchange for training, resource manuals, and curriculum policies and planning, I inevitably leave these events more enthusiastic and encouraged than I arrived. In this way, Kenneth Blanchard's loose translation of the Japanese proverb above accurately reflects my thoughts this month: when I gather together with my OU colleagues, I am inspired by the passion, wisdom, and experience in the room.

The CETL Chairs' Retreat held on Tuesday, August 29 was a wonderful example of cumulative knowledge. Chairs and Program Directors from across the university gathered to discuss experiences and strategies for success as departmental leaders. Dialogue ranged from departmental programs for increasing student retention to mentoring practices for new (and mid-level) faculty. In an effort to continue the energy and ideas generated at the retreat, CETL is planning three fall Chair Forums which reflect these same topics. I encourage everyone to join in the conversation by attending a fall forum – all are welcome. Registration links are included below.

Chair Events and Resources

1. [Chair Forums](#). 12:00-1:30 p.m.- Lunch included- These informal discussions include lunch and reflect the themes started in our Chairs Retreat. Dates include:
 - Monday, Sept. 25 - Chair Success: Opportunities and Challenges (by Dr. Jeff Youngquist)
 - Friday, Oct. 27 - Chairs Supporting Student Success
 - Monday, Nov. 20 - Chairs Supporting Faculty Success (facilitated by Drs. Reger and Karen Markel)

Register at [the Chairs' Corner website](#).

2. As [Chair Fellow](#), I am always open and available to discuss, listen, and connect with department Chairs across the university. If you would like to schedule a moment to chat (or just say, “Hello”), I can be reached at heisler@oakland.edu.
3. [Resources](#). Information, research, and support for departmental academic leaders.
 - [Chairs’ Corner](#) contains previous messages and lists of countless resources for a Chair’s internal and external work for the university.
 - [Chairs’ Resource Guide](#) Resources shared at the Chairs’ Retreat are available as well as news and best practices from other universities on topics such as mentoring, retention, and hiring.

Faculty Events

1. [CETL website](https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/) (<https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/>)
2. [Faculty Handbook](https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/cetl/files-and-documents/Handbooks/2017-18FacHandbookAug10.pdf) (<https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/cetl/files-and-documents/Handbooks/2017-18FacHandbookAug10.pdf>)
3. [Fall Schedule of Events and Programs](https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/) (<https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/>)

Wishing you success in your first week of classes.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Heisler, Chair Fellow, heisler@oakland.edu

Judy Ableser, CETL Director, ableser@oakland.edu