

## Provost's Message - April 23, 2021

We were delighted to hold the Academic Honors Convocation last weekend! It was modified in many ways much like our academic year. Students who were selected, but unable to attend the event have been coming by my office in a pretty steady stream to pick up their gift or medallion and a copy of the program. It's a privilege to speak with each of them and convey my congratulations. For the seniors, I am actually placing the medallion as we do in the convocation with words of congratulations and reminding them to wear the medallion for any and all commencements in their future.

Some of you noted that speakers at the Honors Convocation event did remove their mask when solo at the podium. This was the result of thoughtful consideration of the [State of Ohio Exceptions to Mask Wearing Policy](#) as we were engaging in a broadcast communication and streaming to an audience with possible hearing impairments. We are planning to take the same approach for speakers alone at the podium during commencement. All other participants will keep their mask on for the event with one other exception: taking the official photo of the graduate in a separate space by the professional photographers off stage.

The Taylor Excellence in Teaching award winner, Dr. Nicholas Johnson, will be speaking at the Fall 2021 Convocation just as Dr. Deleasa Randall-Griffiths did last fall. The Excellence in Scholarship winner, Dr. Chris Chartier, will be speaking at 2021 Fall Faculty College Provost's Luncheon.

I hope that you have communicated your plans to the Registrar's Office on your commencement participation via the open survey you were sent. Students will line up using the large space of the soccer field and track uphill from the football stadium. We will have a processional and students will cross the stage as their names are read aloud. We are planning a seating area on the field for faculty. Pray for great, dry weather.

### Updates:

- 1. Teaching-Load Reassignment Grant Recipients:** Congratulations to Dr. Kelly Sundberg, Assistant Professor of English, and Dr. Jennifer Groman, Assistant Professor of Education, on receiving a Teaching-Load Reassignment Grant for the 2021-2022 Academic Year. This grant provides a three-credit teaching load reduction to support a scholarly or creative activity, with preference given to tenure-track faculty. Congratulations Kelly and Jennifer!
- 2. Supporting Veteran and Military-Affiliated Students:** Beginning on Wednesdays in early June the Veterans Affairs office will be hosting weekly summer campus visit days for interested Veteran and Military-affiliated students. Students will meet with critical staff members, tour campus, and meet current military-connected students. We know prospective students are especially eager to meet with faculty to learn about **academic rigor, faculty-student relations,**

**and how enriched their college experience will be with you as their guide.** If you are interested in participating during a Wednesday morning or afternoon session, please use this [link](#) to select a date and time. Please reach out to Randy Spade at [rspade@ashland.edu](mailto:rspade@ashland.edu) with questions.

3. **High Impact Summer Faculty Institutes:** CITE, Academic Technology and LearnAU will host four virtual, paid High Impact Teaching and Learning Summer Faculty Institutes for full-time faculty focusing on ***The Best of Both Worlds: using virtual and traditional tools to leverage learning in multiple modalities***. These three-days of instruction and interaction will focus on experiential learning and technology, flexible teaching strategies, purposeful course design, accessibility & inclusion, and provide 1-1 time with an academic technologist or instructional designer to work together on a course AND have an opportunity to have your Hybrid or Online course *Quality Matters Essential Review Certified* (during the Institute or over the summer).

In addition, **each Institute will have a 3-hour focus session on the final day** concentrating on a specific faculty development area. Each Institute is limited to 20 full-time faculty, and the \$200 stipend will be paid at the end. **Use this [link](#) to register by May 31, 2021** for the Institute that includes the focus session you are most interested in (all focus sessions will be repeated during Fall 2021 Faculty College). Please reach out to Shawn Orr at [sorr3@ashland.edu](mailto:sorr3@ashland.edu) with questions.

Dates for the Institutes are:

- A. **July 14-16** (Wednesday-Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, with 1-1 sessions scheduled in the afternoons)

**High Impact Summer Faculty Institute: The Best of Both Worlds Friday focus area: Assessment and Blackboard Analytics.** This focus session will introduce the use of Blackboard Analytics for both program-level and ISLO assessment. Discussions of the different assessment methods available and demonstrations of each will be provided (Dr. Karen Groth, James Hayes).

- B. **July 19-21** (Monday- Wednesday 9:00 am-1:00 pm, with 1-1 sessions scheduled in the afternoons)

**High Impact Summer Faculty Institute: The Best of Both Worlds Wednesday focus area: Academic Advising.** This focus session will look at Academic Advising as an intentional teaching and learning process that has a direct impact on student success. Join the Center for Academic Support as they highlight best practices to hone a successful advising relationship and discover advising tools and technology to effectively support students through graduation (Megan Connor and team).

- C. **July 26-28** (Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am-1:00 pm, with 1-1 sessions scheduled in the afternoons)

**High Impact Summer Faculty Institute: The Best of Both Worlds**

**Wednesday focus area: Work/Life Balance.** In this focus session we will discuss how to balance the demands of teaching, service and scholarship while maintaining work/life balance. Specific strategies will be presented to help you work towards this goal (Dr. Mason Posner).

**D. August 2-4** (Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am-1:00 pm, with 1-1 sessions scheduled in the afternoons)

**High Impact Summer Faculty Institute: The Best of Both Worlds**

**Wednesday focus area: Diversity & Inclusion.** Join this focus session as Dr. Judy Alston engages in an important discussion on diversity, equity, and inclusion at AU, and helps faculty consider how to be catalysts for change inside and outside the classroom.

**4. SOAR Network:** In an effort to prepare for Fall 2021, all faculty should ensure that they have access to [SOAR Network](#). This access is needed to participate and complete Early Alert and No-Show Participation surveys, as well as communications for flags, referrals, and kudos to support student success efforts. You will find login trouble shooting steps, helpful video tutorials, and FAQs [HERE](#). If you have any other questions or concerns regarding SOAR Network access, please contact the SOAR Network Administrator, Judee Mulhollen, at [jmulholl@ashland.edu](mailto:jmulholl@ashland.edu).

Please be encouraged that we are so near to the completion of this Spring 2021 semester. I know that you have student projects to assess, final exams to plan and write, but it is my hope that you are also planning time to recharge. I am planning to take some time away to see my son and daughter-in-law who are expecting our very first grandchild!

My prayers continue to be offered for you daily, especially during the last few weeks of the semester.

Blessings,  
Dr. Amiel Jarstfer  
Provost