Every Learner Everywhere Network Releases Two New Resources to Provide Holistic Support to Students and Faculty as Campuses Return to In-Person Learning
From optimizing digital learning to recommendations for self-care, the new resources cover a range of tips, scenarios

Boulder, CO (June 8, 2021) – As instructors and their students emerge from the pandemic and return to in-person learning, the Every Learner Everywhere network has released two resources that put the holistic needs of students and their instructors at the center. The *Caring for Students Playbook* and *Optimizing High-Quality Digital Learning Experiences: A Playbook for Faculty* will serve as essential tools for instructors who want to enhance and optimize the digital learning experiences they create for their students while providing student care supports.

The *Caring for Students Playbook* provides practical recommendations, concrete strategies, and resources to support instructors in operationalizing equity-focused, inclusive teaching strategies that put student care into practice. The impetus for the playbook was the COVID-19 pandemic, but the information and resources provided represent high standards of student support regardless of the environment.

Optimizing High-Quality Digital Learning Experiences is a timely update to the Every Learner Everywhere network's most viewed and downloaded resource. It reflects student and faculty feedback from remote teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic that revealed a growing digital equity gap. This *Playbook* is a call-to-action for faculty to focus on optimizing the quality of digital learning experiences, especially for minoritized students.

"In this moment in time, educators are uniquely poised to address endemic challenges of inequity that have been prevalent within higher education well before the pandemic," said Angela Gunder, Chief Academic Officer for the Online Learning Consortium, a partner in authoring both resources. "These two resources from the Every Learner Everywhere network provide actionable approaches and methods to support the success of all learners through sustainable, equitable, and quality digital learning pedagogy."

Caring for Students features detailed recommendations divided into six sections:
- Reimagine Your Syllabus Content
- Review and Revise Your Course Content
- Assess Your Students With Care
- Develop and Enact a Communication Plan
- Integrate Institutional Supports
- Take Time for Self-Care

Caring for Students will be released with a supplemental *Getting Started With Key Terms and Challenges* resource. The guide will provide additional information and resources surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion; academic, financial, and socio-economic challenges for students; culturally responsive teaching; trauma-informed teaching; and universal design for learning.

"As instructors and their students emerge from the pandemic and find a new 'normal' in how higher education is delivered, these guides can help instructors as they continue working to meet their students where they are, understand their challenges, connect them with resources, and provide them with flexible learning opportunities," shared Jessica Rowland Williams, Ph.D., Director of Every Learner Everywhere.

Likewise, the updated *Optimizing High-Quality Digital Learning Experiences: A Playbook for Faculty* reflects the needs of students and faculty as they transition back to in-person learning and hybrid instruction models. It is designed to help faculty make the shift toward thinking and designing strategically so they may amplify the opportunities the online environment provides to both their digital spaces and physical classrooms. The playbook aims to assist faculty in integrating these practices to meet the learning needs of students through effective digital course design and teaching strategies.

"As our institutions gear up to serve students on campus, we encourage faculty to continue to leverage and improve what they did with digital tools during COVID-19," said Karen Vignare, Ph.D., Vice President, Digital Transformation for Student Success & Executive Director, of the Personalized Learning Consortium (PLC) at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). "Digital learning can be used on campus to improve equitable outcomes and help us all be ready if there is a need to return to the fully online environment."

"We are increasingly seeing the need to support faculty – full-time and part-time – as they take the lead in classroom innovations to create more equitable learning environments for their students," said Karen Stout, Ed.D., President and CEO of Achieving the Dream (ATD). "Our hope is that educators will implement the strategies in these playbooks and that their institutions will provide them with the time and space they need to take risks as they test new approaches in service of student success."

Caring for Students is a collaboration among Achieving the Dream, The Online Learning Consortium, and Every Learner Everywhere, while Association of Public & Land Grant Universities, The Online Learning Consortium, and Every Learner Everywhere collaborated on *Optimizing High-Quality Digital Learning Experiences: A Playbook for Faculty*. To download the resources or learn more about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit everylearnereverywhere.org. To contact

Every Learner Everywhere, email everylearner@wiche.edu, or call (303) 541-0206. Follow Every Learner on Twitter @EveryLearnerNet.

Every Learner Everywhere (Every Learner) is a network of twelve partner organizations with expertise in evaluating, implementing, scaling, and measuring the efficacy of education technologies, curriculum and course design strategies, teaching practices, and support services that personalize instruction for students in blended and online learning environments. Our mission is to help institutions use new technology to innovate teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of improving student outcomes for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students, poverty-affected students, and first-generation students. Our collaborative work to advance equity in higher education centers on the transformation of postsecondary teaching and learning. We build capacity in colleges and universities to improve student outcomes with digital learning through direct technical assistance, timely resources and toolkits, and ongoing analysis of institution practices and market trends. For more information about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit everylearnereverywhere.org.

Association of Public & Land Grant Universities (APLU) is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. With a membership of 244 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, 'APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement. Annually, member campuses enroll 5 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.3 million degrees, employ 1.3 million faculty and staff, and conduct $49.2 billion in university-based research.

Achieving the Dream (ATD) leads a growing network of more than 300 community colleges committed to helping their students, particularly low-income students and students of color, achieve their goals for academic success, personal growth, and economic opportunity. ATD is making progress in closing equity gaps and accelerating student success through a unique change process that builds each college's institutional capacities in seven essential areas. ATD, along with nearly 75 experienced coaches and advisors, works closely with Network colleges in 45 states and the District of Columbia to reach more than 4 million community college students. Learn more at achievingthedream.org and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

The Online Learning Consortium (OLC) is a collaborative community of higher education leaders and innovators dedicated to advancing quality digital teaching and learning experiences designed to reach and engage the modern learner – anyone, anywhere, anytime. OLC inspires innovation and quality through an extensive set of resources, including best-

practice publications, quality benchmarking, leading-edge instruction, community-driven conferences, practitioner-based and empirical research, and expert guidance. The growing OLC community includes faculty members, administrators, trainers, instructional designers, and other learning professionals, as well as educational institutions, professional societies, and corporate enterprises. Learn more at onlinelearningconstorium.org.