

Every Learner Everywhere Network Offers Case-Based Guidebook to Highlight Digital Learning Implementation Successes

Case studies of seven institutions provide insights, a call to action for addressing equity gaps

Boulder, CO (January 24, 2022) – The Every Learner Everywhere network has released a new resource highlighting seven postsecondary institutions’ experiences implementing digital learning, resulting in a series of key recommendations for institutional leaders who want to invest in digital learning infrastructure and bridge equity gaps to better serve Black, Latinx, Indigenous, poverty-affected, and first-generation students.

[Strategies for Implementing Digital Learning Infrastructure to Support Equitable Outcomes: A Case-Based Guidebook for Institutional Leaders](#) examines seven institutions’ experiences, challenges and successes to date in implementing digital learning. Resource collaborators Tyton Partners and the Association for Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) profiled institutions that are at varying stages in their digital learning implementation, with student populations ranging from small to large, and that are showing progress in achieving equitable outcomes for students as a result of sustained focus on the role of digital learning.

The institutions studied are:

- Cuyahoga Community College
- Fayetteville State University
- Georgia State University
- Ivy Tech Community College
- Tennessee Board of Regents
- California State University, Fresno (Fresno State)
- University of Texas at El Paso

“The exemplary commitment that higher education leadership across all institutional-levels have made in investing in digital learning is clear and shows how innovation works for students,” said Karen Vignare, Ph.D., Vice President, Digital Transformation for Student Success and Executive Director, Personalized Learning Consortium (PLC) at APLU. “Their efforts and innovation throughout implementation are highlighted in campus-wide initiatives tailored to the needs of their student populations. These are cases we all can learn from to create more equitable impact in higher education.”

Strategies for Implementing Digital Learning Infrastructure focuses on providing advice and examples for institutions seeking to build the organizational infrastructure needed for high-quality digital learning, specifically centering students and equitable outcomes. This resource

is designed primarily for mid- to senior-level academic administrators (including department chairs, leaders of centers of teaching and learning, technology leaders, and academic leadership).

Among the examples referenced is that of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) where, for example, a Fundamentals of Macroeconomics course was redesigned to be delivered using an adaptive courseware platform. The delivery of content is via videos rather than through traditional reading with formative assessment enabling both students and faculty to assess and monitor progress. The videos are provided in English and Spanish and captioned to improve accessibility. Course-level data from Tri-C's Office of Institutional Research show improvement in student pass rates from 80% in Fall 2018 to 90% in Fall 2019, following the course redesign. Over the same period, the average course grade in The Fundamentals of Macroeconomics increased from 2.55 to 2.86.

Strategies for Implementing Digital Learning Infrastructure recommends seven key actions for scaling digital learning infrastructure to be equitable and high-quality:

- Create an institution-wide approach to defining and implementing a plan for equity and digital learning.
- Build a sustainable business plan, incorporating internal and external funding sources
- Build capabilities, expertise, and policies to support high-quality and equitable course design.
- Create a learning culture and equip faculty for success through effective professional learning, incentives, and technologies.
- Engage in ongoing evaluation and analytics.
- Equip students for success in using digital tools.
- Use external partners and vendors strategically to augment internal capacity.

“The institutions featured have used digital learning to transform their institutions around the needs of students. Their work demonstrates that with strong leadership and collaboration across traditionally siloed departments policies, practices, and systems can be redesigned to create conditions that can close persistent equity gaps in course outcomes” said Kristen Fox, Managing Director at Tyton Partners.

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To download the free resource or learn more about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitizing 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.

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Every Learner Everywhere 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 learning outcomes for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students, poverty-affected students, and first-generation students. Our collaborative work aims 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.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

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, its 201 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.2 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$46.8 billion in university-based research.

Tyton Partners

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